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STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.

LIST OF STAMPS FIRST NOTICED IN THE *STAMP-COLLECTOR'S* *MAGAZINE*, 1865.

THE subjoined list comprises all the stamps noticed in the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine* last year, except locals, proofs, and essays, which are 'too numerous to mention.' In every instance where the date of issue is omitted it will be understood to have been 1865.

Barbados.

1852 (?). Figure of Britannia in centre, value not indicated. Col. imp.; rect.

Dull slate (2d.)

Same device, value indicated. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

Fourpence brick-red.

Belgium.*

Arms in centre. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

1 centime grey.

2 „ blue.

5 „ brown.

Profile of King Leopold I. to left, in circle. POSTES above, value below. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

10 centimes grey.

20 „ blue.

30 „ brown.

40 „ carmine.

1 franc lilac.

Bermuda.

Head of Queen to left in circle, name in upper and value in lower marginal labels. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

One penny red.

* When these stamps were described, only the 30 c. and 1 franc had appeared; we are not aware whether or not the other values have been issued since, if not, the King's death will probably prevent their appearing at all.

Same device, name in arched label above, value in lower marginal label.

Col. imp.; rect. perf.

Sixpence lilac.

Same device, name above and value below in arched labels. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

One shilling green.

British Columbia.

Capital V and heraldic flowers surmounted by gothic crown; name and value in oval band. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

Threepence blue.

Brunswick.

Arms in white relief with figure of value at each side. Name above, GROSCHEN below. Col. imp.; oval, perf.

$\frac{1}{2}$ groschen black.

$\frac{1}{2}$ „ green.

1 „ rose.

2 „ blue.

3 „ brown.

ENVELOPES.

Same device. Envelope inscription in blue ink to right. Col. imp.; oval.

1 groschen rose.

2 „ blue.

3 „ brown.

Buenos Ayres.

1858.—Steamship in oval. Col. imp.; rect.

4 reales chestnut, brown.

Cape of Good Hope.

Same device as issue of 1864. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

One penny red.

Fourpence blue.

Sixpence lilac.

Ceylon.

Same device as issue of 1857. Col. imp.;
rect. perf.

Twopence dull green.

Danubian Principalities.

Head of Prince Couza in oval, value in
words in upper margin. Inscript-
ion POSTA ROMANA FRANCO at sides,
figure of value in each corner.
Col. imp.; rect.

2 paras yellow, orange.

5 „ blue, light and dark.

20 „ dull red, carmine.

Denmark.

Same device as issue of 1864. Col. imp.;
rect. perf.

2 skillings blue.

3 „ mauve.

16 „ slate-green.

ENVELOPES.

Crown, sword, and sceptre within an oval.
Inscription in border K.G.H. POST
FRM., value below. Col. imp.;
oval.

2 skillings blue.

4 „ scarlet.

Ecuador.

Arms in central oval supported by flags and
surmounted by eagle, the whole
within a circle. Inscription in
upper margin ECUADOR CORREOS,
value below. Col. imp.; rect.

$\frac{1}{2}$ real blue.

1 „ yellow, green.

Frankfort.**NEWSPAPER STAMP.**

1860?—Two-headed eagle in centre. In-
scription FREI STADT FRANKFURT
within oval border; no value in-
dicated. Black ink; oval.

French Colonies.

Same device as issue of 1859-62.

20 c. blue.

80 c. carmine.

Great Britain.

Same device as issue of 1862, square block

containing a letter in each corner.
Col. imp.; rect. perf.

Threepence rose.

Same device as issue of 1862, corner letters
larger. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

Fourpence red.

One shilling green.

Head of Queen in circle, large letters in
corners, with a star below each of
the upper and a figure above each
of the lower letters. Col. imp.;
rect. perf.

Six pence lilac.

Hamburg.

Same device as issue of 1859.

7 schillings mauve.

Holland.

Same device as issue of 1864.

15 c. orange.

Hong Kong.

Same device as issue of 1862.

8 cents chrome-yellow.

96 „ yellow-brown.

Honduras.

Emblematic device and inscription DIOS UNION
Y LIBERTAD in central oval, CORREOS
DE HONDURAS and value in outer
oval, figure of value in corners.

2 reales rose, green.

Italy.

Same device as 1864 (being the 15 c. blue
with the words of value obliterated
by a semi-circular line of black
ink, and with c. 20 in upper and
20 c. in lower corners). Col. imp.;
rect. perf.

20 c. blue.

Figure of value inscribed DUE CENTESIMI in
centre, inscription in border POSTE
ITALIANE. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

2 c. red-brown.

India.

Same device as issue of 1860.

2 annas orange.

4 „ green.

Vibonia.

- (?) Inscription WENDEN'SCHE KREIS BRIEFPOST in circle, ornament in centre, no value indicated. Col. imp.; rect. Light-blue.

Mecklenburg Schwerin.

- Name, bull's head in centre on white ground. Col. imp.; small square (perforated in fours). $\frac{1}{4}$ schilling red.

Mexico.

- Same device as issue of 1864.

3 centavos red-brown.

- Head of Hidalgo in oval frame surrounded by fancy border. Inscription CORREOS MEJICO above, value below.

1 real red.

2 „ blue.

4 „ brown.

1 peso black.

New Granada (or Colombia).

- Arms on shield, supported by flags and surmounted by an eagle, in an oval containing nine stars. Inscription E. U. DE COLOMBIA CORREOS NACIONALES, value below. Col. imp.; rect.

5 cent. orange.

10 „ violet.

20 „ blue.

50 „ green.

1 peso rose.

- Arms, with flags and cannon on either side, surmounted by eagle and nine stars, in elliptical border. Inscription E. U. DE COLOMBIA CORREOS NACIONALES, value below. Col. imp.; rect.

1 cent. pink.

- Three escutcheons of arms united to form a triangle, name and value in border. Black imp.; triangular.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ centavos lavender.

- Large roman capital A in circular wreath, E. U. DE COLOMBIA above, CORREOS NACIONALES within the wreath, value below. Black imp.; large rect.

5 cents.

- Six-pointed star comprehending a circle containing a large capital R; in each

angle a figure 5. Inscription E. U. DE COLOMBIA CORREOS NACIONALES CINCO CENTAVOS surrounding the whole. Black imp.; large rect.

5 centavos.

New South Wales.

NEWSPAPER STAMP.

- Same device as adhesive stamp of 1864 (impressed on newspaper wrappers).

One penny red.

New Zealand.

- Same device as issue of 1860. Perf.

Fourpence rose.

Philippine Islands.

- 1863.—Head of Queen to right in circle. Inscription CORREOS INTERIOR above, FRANCO with value below, two dots after CORREOS and one after value.

5 cuartos vermilion.

10 „ rose.

1 real dark-violet.

2 „ blue.

- Head of Queen to right in circle, CORREOS above, value below (similar to, but larger than Spain 1857). Col. imp.; rect.

1 real plata f. blue-green.

- 1864.—Same device but wider.

1 real plata f. bright-green.

Prussia.

- Same device as 4 and 6 pf. 1861. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

3 pfennige mauve.

St. Lucia.

- Same device as issue of 1859.

Black (penny).

Yellow (fourpence).

Mauve (sixpence).

Orange (one shilling).

Sandwich Islands.

- Inscription in border UKU LETA above, value below, INTER ISLAND to left, HAWAIIAN POSTAGE to right, large figure of value in the middle. Blue imp.; rect.

1 cent

2 ..

5 ..

Saxony.

ENVELOPE STAMP.

Arms in oval, figure of value in small oval disk at each side. Inscription SACHSEN NEU GROSCHEN. Col. imp.; oct.

 $\frac{1}{2}$ n. gr. orange.**Schleswig-Holstein.**

Inscription, SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN in oval band, figure of value in centre. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

 $\frac{1}{2}$ schilling rose. $1\frac{1}{4}$.. green. $1\frac{1}{2}$.. = 1 s. gr. lilac. $2\frac{1}{2}$.. blue.

4 .. = 3 s. gr. bistre.

SCHLESWIG.

Inscription HERZOGTH (or HERZOGTHUM) SCHLESWIG in an oval band enclosing a central figure of value. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

 $\frac{1}{2}$ schilling green. $1\frac{1}{4}$.. mauve. $1\frac{1}{2}$.. = 1 s. gr. rose. $2\frac{1}{2}$.. blue.

4 .. bistre.

HOLSTEIN.

Inscription HERZOGTH (or HERZOGTHUM) HOLSTEIN in an oval band inclosing central figure of value. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

 $\frac{1}{2}$ schilling green. $1\frac{1}{4}$.. mauve. $1\frac{1}{2}$.. = 1 s. gr. carmine. $2\frac{1}{2}$.. blue.

4 .. = 3 s. gr. bistre.

Spain.

Head of Queen in oval frame, arms at upper and value at lower angles. Inscription ESPANA above, CORREOS below. Col. imp.; rect.

2 cuartos rose.

4 .. blue (perf).

12 .. blue with rose oval.

19 .. red-brown ..

1 real green.

2 .. lilac.

Turkey.

Crescent and star within an ornamented oval containing Turkish characters printed in black, value in Turkish numerals at corners. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

10 paras green.

20 .. yellow-brown.

1 piastre lilac.

2 .. blue.

5 .. pink.

25 .. red.

Same device. Brown impression; rect. perf.

20 paras.

1 piastre.

2 ..

5 ..

25 ..

United States.

Head of Andrew Jackson to left in fancy frame. U.S. POST above, value in figures at side and words below. Black imp.

Two cents (buff paper).

Head of Washington to left in oval. Inscription U.S. POSTAGE, value in words below and figure at sides. Col. imp.; oval, white or buff paper.

Three cents rose, brown.

Six .. violet.

Vancouver's Island.

Head of Queen to left in circle, name above and value below in arched labels. Col. imp.; rect. perf.

Five cents red.

Same device, name in upper, value in lower margin.

Ten cents blue.

Victoria.

Same device as issue of 1864.

One penny green.

Eightpence orange-yellow.

Name, laureated head of Queen to left in circle. Blue impression on blue paper: oct. perf.

One shilling.

Same device as issue of 1862.

Two shillings blue on yellow paper.

FRANK STAMPS.

Royal arms in centre, name of official above,
VICTORIA FRANK STAMP below.

Chief Secretary, Minister of Justice, Commissioner of Public Works, Commissioner of Railways and Roads, Commissioner of Trades and Customs, the Treasurer of Victoria, the Postmaster-General.

Württemberg.

ENVELOPE STAMPS.

Same device as issue of 1864. Col. imp.;
oct.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | kreuzer green (violet envelope inscription). |
| 3 | „ rose (black ditto). |
| 6 | „ blue (yellow ditto). |

POSTAGE-STAMP PAPER & WATER-MARKS.

HAVING obtained possession of the illustrative cuts, we present our readers with a slightly modified and condensed translation of Dr. Magnus's interesting and elaborate essay, on the subject of our title, in M. Mahé's magazine.

INTRODUCTION.—Another nicety! Is it not sufficient to distinguish perforated from unperforated stamps; the use of the *roulette* from that of the machine; small dentelations from large ones, &c.? Why not adhesives from non-adhesives? Such, perhaps, are the complaints and objections likely to be raised by this article. Very well, timbrophilists; but, if you take the trouble to read it, you will be soon convinced of the utility of these researches. You will acknowledge that the study and collection of such variations are at least as interesting as those of essays, often having no other merit than that of rarity and a golden value. You shall judge if we are not rendering you good service in signalizing a little-explored, but abundantly-productive mine.

DEFINITION.—The term 'watermark' is applied to those letters or designs produced by means of a copper wire in the manufac-

turing of paper. The corresponding French term *filiigrane* originally implied the metal only, but now does double duty. Most governments employ peculiar watermarks for stamped papers, and they are found on French documents of the 17th and 18th centuries. The patterns are infinitely varied; their utility consists only in the increased difficulty of counterfeiting the stamps as well as in assigning a correct date to the paper employed. The former was doubtless the guiding motive with the early fabricators of postage stamps, the majority of first issues being on watermarked paper; but afterwards the perfection of the designs and slight intrinsic value of stamps were found more serious obstacles to the production of counterfeits. At present, Great Britain and her colonies are almost the sole employers of watermarked paper.

HISTORY.—Till lately, the study of watermarks has been neglected; the earliest catalogues distinguishing only the 1855 and 1856 Spanish emissions from 1857 by such means. No others have been mentioned by any succeeding catalogue, but the articles published in the *Magasin Pittoresque*, by M. Rondot, signalize some with great exactness, yet not noticing those of the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium, and Brunswick. The watermark question is now in full vogue with amateurs. M. Regnard has recently taken up the study, and a catalogue, which we know from hearsay only [probably the French edition of Mons. Berger-Levrault now in course of publication], embodies the result of his investigations. No one is unaware of the stars, crowns, &c., watermarking certain stamps; but, except that above noted, not any—as far as we are aware—indicates in detail the several individuals bearing them. Moreover, we remark with surprise several articles of the highest interest emanating from the pen of the principal Parisian philatelist, totally ignoring the watermarks of Western Australia and the Mauritius; neither are these really distinctive characteristics usually touched upon by the chroniclers of newly-issued specimens. [We will in future attend to the hint.]

PURPOSE.—This is the principal object of this paper. In the process of remodelling

our collection, we were obliged to remount all our stamps. This induced a search after marks; and that again called attention to the paper employed. We were too often struck by the variety of papers, blue, white, or tinted, both watermarked and otherwise, not to apprehend the imperative necessity of connecting the study of paper and watermark. This decided us on doing so, but in the former case we shall confine attention to the new or little-known, omitting whatever bears but slightly on our subject.

This is neither a compilation nor a plagiarism, but the fruits of patient and attentive labour. This sentence of Bacon, *Arts tota in observatione*, is our motto; and we are indebted to the courtesy of M. Mahé for economizing both time and expense during our researches.

Hitherto the selection of varieties has been based on difference in colour, absence, presence, and even mode of perforation; but we would evidence the neglect of this one important element of individuality, by remarking that variation of hue and watermark frequently go hand-in-hand.

Before entering on the subject, however, we must first briefly establish what is to be understood by series, emission, and issue; applying the former name to a set of stamps whether of the same or a varied type, but always of different values, whose simultaneous or successive emission serves at the same epoch for any country's postage.

A *series* then is constituted—first, by the preservation of one type for all, or the majority of the stamps composing the same; secondly, by unity of colour in the several values employed. Thus, an impression in colour on white, substituted for a black one on colour; or, *vice versâ*, the design remaining unaltered, as well as a radical change in the colours, in our opinion characterizes a new series. A mere modification of tint or in the nature of the paper or watermark is, in our eyes, only a new issue. However, a radical change in a solitary stamp, or the addition of a new value is not sufficient with us to establish a series, which we think depends on some striking character in design or mode of impression, and according to the date of emission or withdrawal of the

stamps. [It will be remarked that British philatelists do not generally recognise these niceties of diction, the terms commented on by the talented author of this article being for the most part convertible.]

Emission indicates the epoch of the introduction of a series, or more particularly of an additional stamp; or some important modification in colour, paper, or watermark.

The successive changes undergone by a stamp either in paper or watermark we term modifications of issue. It is from such characteristics that we borrow the distinctive signs of *issues*. The accident of perforation, or otherwise, serves simply to establish varieties in stamps of the same issue. The word emission applies equally to a series or an issue.

Two examples will explain the distinction we point out between the terms series and issue. In the New Zealand stamps, for instance, the Queen's portrait has been the unchanged type on all the individual specimens; that part of the inscription denotive of value alone varying. There is, therefore, but one *series*, formed at first by the *emission* of three stamps—one penny, twopence, and one shilling—completed by the successive appearance of the sixpence and threepence. [The sixpenny stamp is one of the oldest.] But the paper employed is far from having been always the same, and we shall have to note *issues* on blue paper, white paper *without*, tinted paper *with* watermark, very thin [like the Turkish] paper, and several others, indicated by observation of their watermarks.

In Bavaria again, the first *series* consists of one stamp only (figure of value in square frame). The second comprehends six individuals bearing the figure in a circular frame. The colour of each stamp varies very little, and the paper is always the same; but, in consequence of a postal convention, all the German governments adopt similar colours for stamps of the same value; and Bavaria, in consequence, emits a new *series*, by adopting the conventional colours, though leaving the device unchanged; for not one solitary stamp of this third series is alike in colour with its preceding equivalent.

DIVISION.—We shall apportion our remarks under four principal heads—First, The Pa-

per Employed in the Fabrication of Postage Stamps; Secondly, Watermarks in General; Thirdly, Watermarks and Paper used by each Country in particular; and, Fourthly, A few concluding observations.

§ 1st. PAPER EMPLOYED IN THE FABRICATION OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

Many different sorts of paper are used: sometimes plain, sometimes lined, white or coloured. In some instances [the first two sets of Oldenburg, for example] the whole sheet is coloured, and the various hues answer as well as the indications of value for distinguishing the stamps, the impression being black. In others, as in some of the Swiss essays, and first Federal emission, the colour is only on the part where the stamp is printed.

For many stamps, the paper is slightly tinted of the same hue as the intended individual, or becomes so from using too porous a paper. At times the ground remains quite white, but in a certain number has a bluish tint, whatever be the colour impressed; and this is principally on the early English. We read in the *Magasin Pittoresque* that Messrs. Bacon and Petch, and their successors, Perkins, Bacon, & Co., always printed the penny and twopenny stamps on white; but very many of the former, especially those issued before 1854, appear to have had a bluish ground more or less deep. Though some may be noticed whose tint is but partially blue, the middle remaining white, others are so uniformly coloured as to negative the idea of accident. However that may be, the printing ink has the credit of producing this appearance, which in the twopenny stamps is not so common, and is moreover quite different.

We take this opinion for granted, but shall clinch it by admitting the presence of some ingredient in the ink, decomposable by the action of air or light, and producing an effect analogous to that caused by iodised preparations on starch [or the adhesive matter on stamps], which becomes deep blue from the contact. This is a mere chemical action [but would account for the phenomenon in the case of the British penny and twopenny, whose backs are garnished with potato starch].

This colouration, however accidental in the stamps of Great Britain, is signalized as constant in some countries. Such are the 1, 4, and 8 annas Indian, second emission; the first of New Zealand; some of the New South Wales, Tuscan, Trinidad, Barbadoes, &c.

At times, the paper is very thick and pure white [as in the second Austrian and Venetian issues]; at others it is tinted [the Brazilians]; some papers are glazed [the Jamaica, Hong-Kong, &c.]; some extremely thin [as the earlier Danubian and Turkish]. The watermarked, which are usually tinted and glazed, we treat of in the next section.

Finally, wire-wove paper has been employed for postage labels, and we may here remark that occupying ourselves almost exclusively with these, we omit mention of stamped envelopes, the paper for which is often furnished by non-officials, and consequently is simply trade-marked; the watermarks do not present any interest except in such instances which we shall take care to particularize, as those of Russia, the United States, and Canada.

Some papers have coloured thread or silk running through them, woven into their fabric by the Dickinson process, so called from its inventor's name. Such were employed for the Bavarians, the second series of the Federal Swiss, the first envelopes and embossed English, and for some few others. The former alone continue the custom to the present time.

Essays [and proofs] are often printed on very thin paper, some on China paper, and some [the first Sardinians and second Wurtembergs] on cardboard. Stamps have been proposed to the French and other governments printed on a paper saturated with a chemical preparation, acted upon by means of a special pencil for the purpose of obliteration. None of these projects having been adopted, we are content with their bare mention. Some Russian and Paraguay essays may be noted printed in colour on an aniline preparation, thus guaranteeing against the possibility of washing out the marks of obliteration.

(To be continued.)

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

OUR readers must bear in mind that the publication of a magazine differs essentially from that of a newspaper: the articles of the former are, for the most part, written a fortnight or three weeks before appearance in print; while those of the latter sometimes reach the press only just in time for the compositor to arrange them. On this account, many of our quasi newly-issued specimens have been familiar to the eyes of some of our subscribers perhaps a week or more beforehand. That our news, however, should not be totally a misnomer, we do not wait to engrave every novelty; as we should like to do, before announcement; and after this preamble, offer the portraits of the pair of New Granada stamps described



in the October number of our last volume; to which we refer for description and character.

Together with these stamps appeared a large adhesive vignette, intended to supply the place of a seal for registered letters. A large tricoloured flag occupies the upper part of this, while emblazonments and the figures of value show on either side. The following inscriptions testify the character of the affix, which is an inferior specimen of chromo-lithography: CORREOS NACIONALES ESTADOS UNIDOS DE COLOMBIA.—CERTIFICACION SIN CONTENIDO, VALE VEINTE I CINCO (or CINCUENTA) CENTAVOS. Below the device appears SALIS DE ** EN ** DE ** DE 186 **; the spaces being filled up in writing by the name of the town whence sent, the date and name of the month, &c.

SHANGHAI.—The same remarks will serve as introductory to a Chinese local which is said to have been some time in use. It is nearly square, and larger than the

generality of labels. The central square bears the armorial dragon of China with some tasteless ornamentation. The encompassing framework shows above, SHANGHAI L.P.O (local post-office), value below; and Chinese characters, probably name and value, on each side. It is engraved, colour on white paper, but neither perforated nor gummed. We have heard of four values; 2 candareens black, 4 c. yellow, 8 c. green, and 16 c. red. It must be understood that we do not vouch for the genuineness of this outlander. The *pro* in favour of its reception is the testimony of two generally careful continental recorders, neither of whom could have been the other's copier, inasmuch as their journals appear simultaneously. The *contra* is the jumble of the celestial empire's imperial arms with the English inscription, and the testimony of a gentleman just returned from Shanghai who denies having ever heard of such a coin as a candareen.*

LUXEMBOURG.—In addition to the perforatory improvement previously noted, the colours of three of the values have been changed. The 1 centime is now brown; the 10 c. lilac; and the 25 c. blue. This is said to be in accordance with the German postal convention that stamps of the several values of one, two, and three groschen should be respectively rose, blue, and brown. The facts of the case, nevertheless, do not precisely tally: the 12½ c., equivalent to 1 g., was already of the requisite hue; the 25 c. or 2 g. is now made uniform; but its original brown tint ought to have been assigned to the 37½ c. which stands for the 3 g. of German states; whereas we are informed that the 1 c. has usurped it. There seems some misapprehension somewhere. It is curious that the 10 c. of Luxembourg made its appearance nearly two years back, and no doubt a sheet of them, if not more, had been printed off in preparation for this change; but it was almost universally ignored as a chemical imposture.

* [Since writing the above we have received specimens of these stamps direct from a correspondent in Shanghai, whose veracity is unimpeachable. The values given above we find correct.—Ed.]

TUSCANY.—We here present our readers with an illustration of the 2 soldi Franco



Bollo Straordinario.—This little-known stamp has not, so far as we are aware, yet been inserted in any English catalogue; nor can we at the moment refer to any foreign treatise which mentions it. Collectors

have long been acquainted with it, and examples exist in most of the first English and continental collections of the day. The stamp is of the description denominated *typographed*, and was impressed in the post office by a hand die, on newspapers coming from or *via* Austria into Tuscany.

The ink used was ordinary black ink, and copies may be found impressed both on the white margin and the printed matter of journals which have been transmitted through the post. The date and period of use was that of the well-known Lion series; the stamp was a *frank* stamp, used in the office, and not obliterated by any defacing mark, and has consequently a strong analogy to the *Chiffre Taxe* stamp used in France, the only difference being that the latter is adhesive and affixed *to*, the former impressed *on* the letter or newspaper. Specimens of this stamp are not very easily obtained; from its mode of use it was exposed to great risk of destruction, generally sharing the fate of the newspaper. This probably accounts for its rarity.

URUGUAY.—Simultaneously with the nominal publication of this magazine, is announced another new series of adhesive impressions for the Oriental Republic of Uruguay. We are given to understand that they are the emanations of an English firm, and will be printed on a watermarked special paper. The issues of this country bidding fair to be numerous, the present may be appropriately distinguished as the *perspective* series. It is a reminder of the Hamburgs, bearing large figures of value in central rectangle; behind these rises the armorial sun of the South American republics, than which no crest is more difficult to portray with effect: fronting and partially obscuring

them is an oval shield similar to that on the superseded set, but bare and bald, being without the wreath and banners. Altogether, the design is no improvement on the former productions. The frame has REPUBLICA ORIENTAL DEL URUGUAY, and the word CENTESIMOS is on one of the figures. Neither values nor colours are as before; number of stamps the same: 5 centesimos blue, 10 c. green, 15 c. amaranth, and 20 c. pink.

TURN AND TAXIS.—We learn from the valuable magazine of M. Moens that the envelopes usually known as those of North and South Germany, will in future be printed at Frankfort instead of as at present the royal press of Prussia; and that they will be of various sizes, the smallest costing 1 kreuzer, for visiting cards, &c. sent by local post. Other values as before; 3, 6, and 9 kr., and 1, 2, and 3 silbergroschen.

BAVARIA.—A continental authority announces the appearance, at last, of a proof of the frequently and long-talked-of new issue for Bavaria. The royal arms appear embossed in a central shield; above, the word BAYERN, below, KREUZER; the numerical figure or figures of values at each angle. We forbear fuller description till ocular demonstration renders them an accomplished fact. We may at the same time chronicle a Bavarian stamp for returned letters, identical in design and inscription with that for Wurtemberg; the proper armorial bearing being of course substituted. The ornamentation filling in the rectangle is very similar, but much better executed; and the word MUNCHEN (Munich) occupies the position of the lower branches in its prototype.

WURTEMBERG.—Our next representation is that of the rare and elegantly-designed essay so well worthy of replacing the unornamental, if useful, current envelope issue of Wurtemberg. Description is here supererogatory; it was fully noticed both in our July and October numbers of last year's volume.



BRUNSWICK.—We would here remark that a misprint in our last number substituted $\frac{1}{2}$ g. in lieu of $\frac{1}{3}$ g. as the value of the black stamp, the $\frac{1}{2}$ g. green having been omitted. In the same number, owing to unavoidable circumstances, two or three other, but comparatively minor inadvertencies were committed, which we think it right to mention, though scarcely worth particularizing.

AUSTRIA.—A series of envelope essays for this country, which we met with during our stay in Vienna last summer, though gracing a minority of postage-stamp collections for some time, has never been described in this magazine. Both impressions and envelopes are larger than in the existing set, but we have seen individuals of the earlier envelopes larger still. The profile of the emperor Francis Joseph to the left stands out in white relief on a coloured ground in an ornamental oval frame. It is very similar to the small bust, but without the appearance of decapitation so noticeable in that. The double eagle, rather obscurely designed, figures above; the inscription POST STEMP. 3 KREUZ. below. Printed on the left of the envelope, which bears no inscription. There is but one value, but that is repeated in eight different colours: green, red, blue, pale and dark brown, dingy violet, orange, and black. The hues, except one—black being substituted for red-brown—are nearly identical with those of the first, or 1861 series; for which, in fact, these seemingly more acceptable aspirants were rejected. The necessity of a 'friend at court' is strikingly evident from the annals of postage stamps; so many worthies failing from want of patronage; witness particularly the above, some of the lately offered Belgians, and the exceedingly beautiful Italians of Pellas.

UNITED STATES.—We have two candidates for admission into philatelic favour before us; one is a transatlantic emanation, and must be seen to be thoroughly appreciated. It reminds us, in many respects, of the productions of Beaufort House, being elaborately engine-turned and embossed in white on a rich azure ground. The profile of Washington to the right in a central circle

is flanked by a V, the figure of value, and encompassed by a frame of complicated device, above which is U. S. POSTAGE, the Arabic 5 at the top corners; below the frame FIVE CENTS; underneath which appears the 'aim and intent' of the individual, NEWS-PAPERS AND PERIODICALS. Below this, again, is SEC. 38, ACT OF CONGRESS, APPROVED MARCH 3RD, 1863; and, finally, a legend in the 'lowest deep' informs us this imposing looking affair is due to the NATIONAL BANK-NOTE COMPANY, NEW YORK. This stamp is perforated, and measures $3\frac{7}{8}$ by $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches.

SCOTCH LOCAL.—The other, according to a prospectus before us, is issued by 'the Edinburgh and Leith Parcel Delivery Company,' for prepaying circulars, &c., for 'door-to-door' advertisers. It is a neatly-executed lithograph, green impression, gummed, and perforated. A pair of shields adorn the centre, and are, we conclude, the armorial bearings, or emblems, of Edinburgh and its harbour, respectively. The company's designation appears above and below them; the value, ONE FARTHING, the lowest denomination yet known in Her Majesty's dominion for transit purposes, concluding the legend.

LUBECK.—This city starts a new value, $1\frac{1}{2}$ schilling, in substitution for the $1\frac{1}{4}$, as we are informed. Its type is partly a fac-simile of the 1863 set, but a decided improvement thereon; the oval being inclosed in an octagonal frame, and the corners completing a rectangle filled in with engine-work: the colour is a rich mauve lilac. The corresponding envelope is devoid of ornamentation at the angle.

GREECE.—A letter from Athens announces the advent of a series of stamps for unpaid letters only, similar to the current set in size and colour, but the head of Mercury replaced by large figures of value. These are repeated at each corner, and the inscription ELL GRAMM, in Greek characters, appears at top, bottom, and sides.

THE AMERICAN LOCAL POST OFFICES.

WE extract the following account, of the manner in which the United States despatch posts were worked, from the *Stamp-Collector's Record*. Only two classes are

there described—the despatch posts proper and the sub-post-offices;—but a third is mentioned, the delivery offices, with whose mode of operation we are not made acquainted.

‘A despatch post’s stock in trade consists of a “route” of small tin boxes, say about twelve inches square, with a drop hole for the letters, and may number from two hundred to a thousand boxes. These are stationed in various parts of the city at as conveniently equidistant points as possible: some are attached to public buildings, and are not in particular charge of any one, but the greater portion are in charge of the proprietors of drug, book, and grocery stores (there are few, if any, in stores of any other character), who undertake to take care of the letter-box in consideration of a profit of fifty cents which they gain by the sale of every hundred two-cent stamps; at least, such is the usual discount to purchasers. A small tin sign, with the name of the “Dispatch post-box” thereon, is sometimes attached to the door to indicate that the letter-box is within; although the boxes are usually hung on the outside of the building. The hours of collection and delivery are marked on the box, and the letters are taken to the office of the post, which may be in the third story of a building or any locality in the business part of the city, three or four times daily. Boyd’s city post in New York, and Blood’s in Philadelphia, are specimens of this class.

‘The sub-post-offices differ from the despatch posts from the fact that they employ no carriers whatever: all their business being conducted in their office, which is usually in a public thoroughfare. A set of boxes are fitted up in the P.O. style, which the proprietor rents at a stated price per month. All letters directed to any person, naming the particular letter-office (the word *post-office* is no longer used), will, on their arrival in the post-office of that city where the letter-office is located, be immediately thrown into the box owned by that letter-office, whence they will be taken to their destination by a special messenger on the arrival of every mail. The convenience to the public consists in

having their letters brought to a convenient distance from their residences, and the annoyances from crowding and incivility at the G.P.O. are thus avoided. They are also convenient as a medium of intercourse between fashionable milliners, dressmakers, &c., and their patrons. And those benevolent persons who send a likeness of your future wife or husband for a consideration of twenty-five cents also use them extensively.

‘At present, in the city of New York, we know of only three of these offices still existing; the new free delivery system having curtailed their resources sadly. Those still in successful operation are the Broadway P.O., Chas. Miller, proprietor, 422½, Broadway; the Union square P.O., P. C. Godfrey, proprietor, 831, Broadway; and the Madison square P.O., J. Thompson, proprietor, Broadway and 23rd street.’

A FEW REMARKS ON THE FIRST ISSUE OF NATAL.

BY THE AUTHOR OF ‘THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF BRITISH GUIANA.’

FROM time to time we have received inquiries from readers of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine* relative to the first issue of postage stamps of this colony; and we are induced to offer the following lines on these stamps, in the hope that they may afford some information to our friends on the subject.

Few pages in the albums of collectors present a more blank appearance in general than that allotted to this series: and this arises from a two-fold source; the extraordinary rarity of some individuals requisite to form a perfect and complete set, and the extremely bad condition in which most of the specimens exist.

The stamps now under discussion are of *five* values; and each value is of a different design, and struck from a distinct and separate die.

The plates bear a general similarity in device; displaying a royal crown; in fact, the royal crown of Great Britain,* as familiar to visitors to the jewel-room at the Tower of London, is here accurately delineated; the

* [King George the Fourth's, not Her Majesty's.—ED.]

name of the colony, NATAL, and the value in words at length. There are certain differences, however, in the position of the constituent parts of this general design which enable one to decide upon the identity of the particular stamp without trouble.

One penny. Upright rectangle; border of laced pattern; corner angles showing small four-branched ornaments. ONE above in the border, PENNY below; the middle space having the crown in the upper part: NATAL in a straight line immediately beneath. Impressed on

1. Buff paper.
2. Blue paper. (a) light blue.
(b) dark blue.

3. Pink paper.

The buff paper is of a clearer buff and not so red a tinge as that used for the one shilling mentioned below. The blue paper varies in intensity of tint; some being quite light, a sort of sky blue, others deep indigo. The pink is identical in shade with that used for the threepence.* None of the penny stamps are very common; the pink is the scarcest of all, except, perhaps, the light blue.

Threepence. Large irregular-shaped design with curved external lines; NATAL in curved line above, immediately underneath is the crown, with V.R. disposed one letter on each side. THREEPENCE in oval medallion in the lower part of the stamp; the bordering ornamented with oval projections.

On pink paper only.

Sixpence. Rectangular frame; the corners bending inwards and ornamented; the crown flanked by the letters V.R. in the centre of the stamp. NATAL in curved line above, SIXPENCE in two lines beneath.

On green paper.

The paper varies in shade; some specimens are of a very bluish green; those most generally met with are of an apple green, or rather a bright decided green.

The above threepence and sixpence are the two stamps of this series most commonly found; they are far from being rare, while clear and distinct examples are not often seen.

Ninepence. Large irregular-shaped design;



NATAL above in curved line, crown beneath it, flanked by the letters V.R. in an oval, placed immediately under the crown. NINEPENCE in two lines between a laurel wreath.

On blue paper.

This stamp is by far the rarest of the issue;

indeed, it is one of the very rarest known to collectors, and scarcely any, even of the finest collections, boast of a copy: hardly a list of *desiderata* is ever seen but the *ninepenny Natal* is a prominent want. This extreme rarity is produced probably by the little use made of the stamp, which was a treble newspaper postage to Great Britain. Most collectors will recall the feelings of disappointment they have experienced when, on opening a letter announcing the inclosure of this long-desired stamp, they identified the square shape and crown placed low in the die of the blue penny. Generally it is very readily detected, as the shade of blue on which the ninepence is found is always (so far as the writer's experience goes) the lighter or clear blue.

One shilling. Frame forming an upright rectangle, with upper and lower sides curved. NATAL above, crown immediately below it, supported by the letters V.R.; ONE in a straight line below the crown, SHILLING in a curve at the lower part.

On buff paper.

The hue is a little deeper than that used for the one penny buff, as already pointed out. This stamp is like the ninepence, of great rarity; but not quite so utterly hopeless of attainment as its companion.

We have now completed our list of this issue; and append an illustration of the nine-

* [Our penny, which is unused, is many shades paler than our threepenny.—Ed.]

pence. The design was engraved on steel, and is embossed in relief on the paper used; no printing or colouring was adopted; but the simple impression in relief constitutes the whole device. In this respect it has, so far as our recollection goes, no other competitor than the second issue of Sardinia, where the head of Victor Emmanuel is also embossed on coloured paper. The engraver seems to have had present to his mind the stamp formerly in use at Somerset House for affixing agreement stamps to legal documents: that die also bore the royal crown, the *v.r.*, and the value in words at full length.

The evils of such a stamp are seen most manifestly in the wretched indecipherable condition of most specimens of this issue; a set of clear, sharply-defined, legible examples being hardly known. The paper employed was thickish; it has been called *blotting paper*; but this is a mistake, for it was sized, and will bear writing like other paper; its texture is soft and rather spongy. The whole series was adhesive; the gum at the back was very thick, and highly coloured. The precise date of issue we cannot supply (we incline to fix 1852-3); but the currency ceased in 1860, when the stamp bearing the Queen's head was issued. The principal use appears to have been for newspapers, but we do not assert that there was any limitation to that purpose; on the contrary, we have taken specimens from letters.

Of the postmarks employed, one is oval, formed of bars, three above, three below, one at each end, a figure in the central space; this was, we believe, the number of the post-office. Afterwards, a small round stamp with name of post-office and date, like the English stamp on letters (not the obliterating mark on the stamp), was used. The defacing ink was blue.

In conclusion, we may mention that even these stamps have been forged: the fraudulent *fac-simile* (?) maker has, as such ill-designing people often do, blundered; he *indented* the device, so that it appears *sunk*, instead of *in relief*. May all such dishonest tricks equally bear certain detection on their face!

THE GREEK STAMPS.

On the 1st October, 1861, the first series of Greek stamps was emitted. They were the work of a Parisian engraver, and were modelled from the French stamps which they also resemble in their values and, to a certain extent, in their colours. The denominations of the French issue (with the exception of the 4 c.) are repeated in the Grecian, and the 5, 20, and 80 lepta assume the identical colours of the 5, 20, and 80 c.

There have been two series of Greek stamps emitted; though many collectors recognise only one. The design is the same in each, but the stamps of the first issue were (with one exception to which we shall hereafter refer) printed without the numeral of value at the back. The first issue comprised only the sheets printed in and sent from Paris, and which have therefore been christened 'Paris-printed.' The second series, which was issued in 1862 on the exhaustion of the first, and which is still in use, has the figure of value printed on the back of all its stamps except the 1 and 2 lepta.

But the absence or presence of a figure is not the only distinguishing mark of the two series. There are also differences in tint, paper, and engraving, which clearly denote the date of issue. The first series was distinguished by general clearness and delicacy. The plates were new, and probably more care was taken in the printing than with those manufactured at Athens. We have before us a sheet of specimens of Greek stamps, kindly forwarded for our inspection by Messrs. J. B. Hay & Co. (Athens), which show the inferiority of the Athens-printed series; and Messrs. Hay confirm the opinion expressed by Fenton in our November number (1865), that the coarseness and heaviness of this series is the result of an attempted renovation of the die.

The shading of the cheek has been noted as a leading distinction between the two issues. In the later it is very heavy, and the lines, instead of tapering off to a point as in the Paris-printed, are of equal thickness throughout. The neck also which

in the last-named is very slightly shaded by a number of thin lines of diminishing width downwards (the greatest width being not more than $\frac{1}{16}$ th of an inch), is in the Athens-printed shaded by thick lines from the ear to the chin. These differences are most conspicuous in the 1 lept., having been somewhat aggravated by careless printing. Very little trouble appears to have been taken in the working of the sheets of this value, and more or less indistinctness and smudginess is the general result. The colour is also very poor compared with the beautiful marone of the first impressions.

The engraving of the two issues of 2 lepta presents the same features as that of the 1 lepton; but the Athens-printed 2 lepta are not so coarse. The shades of colour both in the first and second issue vary considerably in intensity. One of the Paris-printed now before us is of exactly the hue of the 10 c. French republic, whilst one of the Athenian impressions nearly approaches to bistre.

The 5 lepta was first issued of a delicate emerald-green; but this tint has not been strictly adhered to in the Athens-printed. Two of the specimens before us are of a deep chrome-green; and as they equal the Paris-printed in clearness, we should judge them to be early Athenian impressions; another two are grass-green, and comparatively indistinct.

The 10 lepta of 1861 was printed a vivid red, and the neck was much more shaded than any other stamp of that series. It is also specially distinguished from the rest by a hitherto unnoticed feature, namely, that upon the reverse the figure 10 is printed; but this resemblance to the Athenian series need cause no confusion, as the figure is *twice* the size of that on the later issued stamp. The 10 lepta was originally printed on bluish paper, and this paper was at first used for the second series, but we believe that white paper only is now employed. The colour in most of the Athens-printed is dull, but on one coarse impression (probably lately worked) it is a very deep though not brilliant red.

All the 20 lepta are printed on white paper, and we incline to the belief that

the die in its original state was printed from for some time after its arrival at Athens, as we have specimens with number on back which do not essentially differ from the Paris-printed. The same variation of colour as in the other values is perceptible in this; there being some stamps of as deep a shade as the old 20 c. blue of the French Empire, and others which are identical with the current 20 c. in tint.

The 40 and 80 lepta have gained in hue what they have lost in clearness. The former is printed on violet, the latter on rose-tinted paper. Messrs. Hay & Co. have placed on the sheet of specimens a 40 lepta *rose*, which they state was issued a couple of months since; but we are as yet without information whether the alteration was accidental or designed, temporary or permanent. Messrs. Hay also report an intended issue of unpaid letter stamps to which reference is elsewhere made.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

A PUZZLE FOR PHILATELISTS.—Examine a number of the 5 cents earlier United States issue and you will find three varieties so almost infinitesimally at variance as to be scarcely appreciable by an eye of average acuteness; yet they are so decidedly distinct as to render their having come from the same type totally impossible. On the first inkling of the fact we examined our own collection, containing but four examples, and, to our great surprise, detected the three discrepancies.

A FRANK ANNOUNCEMENT.—We are told in the life of John Vine Hall (the father of the Rev. Newman Hall), that 'his affection for his mother was very strong. For many years she was supported by him, and when his pecuniary resources were very small, he loved to minister to her necessities. He had sent at the usual time, through the post-office, a £5 note, which was stolen. His mother anxiously waited till her resources were nearly exhausted. At length she wrote, "My son Joseph in Egypt, the corn is nearly gone." Great was his grief. Another note was promptly posted in a letter, on the outside of which was written, "This letter contains a £5 note. The last was stolen. Please let this pass; it is for a poor widow." It arrived safely.'

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LOMBARDO-VENETIAN STAMP.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I thought the question mooted in the note appended to the paper of Fentonia, page 142, of your last volume could not bear the shadow of a doubt. I never heard it questioned that the soldi series was employed all over Venetia and Lombardy, consequently in Milan also, from the first of November, 1858, till the seventh June, 1859, the date of the French entry into the capital; and I myself possess copies of the five stamps of the soldi series, postmarked from Milan.

After the eighth or ninth of June, 1859, the postage

stamps of Sardinia were used in Milan; and gradually made their way all over Lombardy, in accordance with the course of the Franco-Italian army: but throughout the campaign the French soldiers and officers alone made use of the postage stamps of France.

B.

Strasburg.

THE INITIALS ON THE PRUSSIAN STAMPS. To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—In your number for December (vol. iii., p. 181), Mr. Overy Taylor expressed his desire to know the meaning of the letters 'F. R.' on the breast of the eagle on the Prussian stamps; I now beg to inform him that they are the initials of the King—viz., 'Frederick Rex.'

In your number for February, 1864, you suggested (and the suggestion was adopted) that the publishers of Oppen's Album should 'offer for sale some loose leaves similar to those ruled in squares for the book, which could be readily gummed in, and thus uniformly supply gaps where the allowance is at present insufficient.' I now beg to make the same suggestion with regard to Moens' Album (English edition), it being now over eighteen months since it was published, and therefore the album does not contain sufficient room for all the stamps that have been issued since then. I would suggest that these leaves be not ruled for stamps, but simply with the fancy border as in the album.

I remain, yours respectfully.

London.

H. W. E. C. S.

CORRECTIONS AND EXPLANATIONS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—In justice to myself I must beg to be allowed to correct some few errors that crept into your review of my work on forged stamps in last month's magazine, which, if suffered to go uncorrected, would seriously prejudice the readers of your magazine against the work.

In the first place, I do *not* put essays under the same category as forged stamps. I merely gave my reasons in the preface for not collecting them, at the same time observing that the *greater part* were expressly manufactured to sell to collectors, and, therefore, could not be genuine essays rejected by the government of the country to which they were proposed. Essays and proofs *have* been imitated—as an example of the former may be cited the two very rare Danish ones (with head of King and Mercury). An imitation of the latter was given at the bottom of page 15, under 'Confederate States of America.'—I have just seen a forgery of the 25 c., blue, Pony Express.—I had it from a very good authority—Mr. Thomas Brand, of Launceston, Tasmania—that the so-called 10d. of that colony is a myth.*—I have, at the present moment, before me the various forgeries as well as the genuine old Spanish stamps, described on pages 52-55 of my work, and having again carefully compared them with each other, can vouch that none of the characteristics of the genuine stamps are to be found in the forgeries, in my little book.—In conclusion, had I alluded to the old wood-block Trinidad stamps (page 58), I should certainly not have said that the genuine were die-printed.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

Brighton.

JOHN M. STOURTON.

THE NOVA SCOTIA MAY-FLOWER.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—In your November number, 'Fentonia' inquires

the name of the Nova Scotia 'May-flower.' It is *epigaea repens*, and it belongs to the order of *ericaceæ*, or heath family. In the *Botany of the United States*, by Professor Asa Gray, it is described as 'a prostrate or trailing plant, with ever-green leaves and rose-coloured flowers, which appear in early spring, and exhale a rich spicy fragrance.' Its scent, and the period of its flowering, are quite sufficient to account for its name; since a far slighter resemblance has frequently sufficed, both in America and Australia, to fix upon plants and animals, the names of those familiar at home to the eyes of the colonist. Again, the *May-flower* was the name of the ship which conveyed the pilgrim fathers to the new world; and this probably influenced the choice of the plant so named, as an emblem; and finally, this very plant has been engraved on one of the Nova Scotia coins. There remains, therefore, no doubt on my mind of this being the fourth flower figured on the postage stamp.

You are right in supposing 'that Madeira uses the stamps of its own country, Portugal.' I, some time ago, received a letter from that island bearing a Portuguese stamp.

If the Austrian receipt stamps are examined with a magnifying glass, the nerves and midrib of a leaf can be traced upon them. This is the impression of a fern-leaf, produced by the method termed nature-printing. In good specimens these markings are quite visible to the naked eye.

I am, yours,

Kew.

F. H. H.

THE RED HALF ANNA OF INDIA.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—In your last November number of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, Mr. Pemberton wrote a letter in which he contradicted all my previous statements about the red half anna of India. I now wish to show him, and all who are interested in that stamp, that I do not make assertions I cannot prove. The specimen I myself possess is one I know to be genuine, having received it as a great rarity from some friends in India, and being able to trace it back beyond the era of stamp collecting. I have asked the opinion of a learned timbrophilist about my red half anna, and he replied that it *was genuine*, and also, that it was a point of so much dispute whether it was an essay or not, that he would not be *sure*, but he was of opinion that it *was* out for a very short time. I have also questioned two others, one of whom had the stamp in his own collection a short time ago, but gave it away lately (to whom, I know not), as he intends to give up collecting. They both agree with me in every respect.

Of course, about its being an essay, is a point which never can be satisfactorily cleared up, except by finding an obliterated specimen which is known to be genuine.

As it appears Mr. Pemberton has *not* the authority of Mr. Pearson Hill that the stamp is an essay, he has no *proofs* at all to that effect. It is easily accounted for that there are no genuine obliterated copies. As the red half anna was only for a *very* short time in use, and as a stamp of so low a value would not be much used, and most people (before stamp collecting existed) burnt or otherwise destroyed their envelopes, it is not likely there would be an *abundance* of postmarked copies.

I now repeat all my former statements, lest any one should be misled by Mr. Pemberton's description. The colour of it is *brilliant* red, it has *eight* arches on each side; the a's in India Half Anna are square at the top (so to speak), and not terminated in a point. It resembles the blue half anna, which followed it, in every thing except the head, in which there are a few minute differences.

* Vide Vol. II., page 160.

Surely with the above proofs, Mr. Pemberton will be satisfied that my half anna red is *not* a forgery as he implied in his November letter.

I now again must subscribe myself.

A LOVER OF RARITIES.

POSTAGE-STAMP DEVICES.

THE ARMS OF NAPLES.

'Strangest of all, a creature composed of nothing but three legs forms part of the Naples arms—what it is supposed to be, or why it is adopted as an heraldic emblem, we cannot say.'—OVERY TAYLOR on 'Postage Stamp Devices.'—*Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, Vol. III., p. 181.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—Wishing to throw what light I can upon this 'strangest of all' devices, I have consulted the heraldic works which happen to be upon my shelves, and have obtained some little information upon the subject.

The strange device is very similar to, although not identical with, the well-known arms of the Isle of Man, and which, through their connection with that island, have become incorporated with the bearings of some of our nobility. The arms of the Isle of Man are thus blazoned—*gules*, three legs armed, proper, conjoined in the centre at the upper part of the thighs, flexed in triangle, garnished and spurred *or*. Those of Naples are *gules*, three legs conjoined in the centre at the upper part of the thighs, flexed in triangle; but I cannot perceive by the device on the stamp that they are either armed or spurred, nor can I ascertain their colour. Inhoff, in his *Blazons*, gives the achievement of Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley and Man,—and looks upon the legs not as armed, but booted, and blazons them thus: *Crua tria femoribus connexa, et ocreis calcaribus armata, quorum duo plantam pedis sursum, tertia dorsum, protendunt*.

James II. of Scotland, created his second son, Alexander, Lord of the Isle of Man, upon which account he carried the arms of the island.

The McLeods quarter them with their original arms because their progenitors were proprietors of the island, and George Mackenzie, last Earl of Cromartie—a title forfeited after the rebellion of 1745—bore them as an escutcheon of pretence from having married an heiress of the McLeod family: his descendant, the Countess-Duchess of Sutherland, created Countess of Cromartie, mother of the present duke, doubtless bears the legs of Man on her coat.

The Isle of Man was, for many years, possessed by the Stanleys, Earls of Derby, who quartered its arms. The tenth earl dying without issue, the possession of the island devolved on James, second duke of Athole, whose descendant, the present and seventh duke, still quarters the arms; although the possession of the island was sold to the government for £400,000 by the fourth duke who died 29th September, 1830.

Now comes the question—why were these arms granted to the Isle of Man? and—which still more interests stamp collectors—how came they to be a portion of the Neapolitan coat?

In reply to the former question I adduce the following from *Bolton's Elements of Armories*. 'These three legs represent the three corners, capes, or promontories of the island, which point to England, Scotland, and Ireland, and being equivocally relative to the name of man, these legs were adorned as belonging to a chevalier.'

In reply to the other, and more interesting question, I am obliged to confess my inability to account for the appearance of the legs on the Neapolitan stamps. They might refer to the shape of the old kingdom, but I scarcely think so; perhaps some one acquainted with

continental heraldry may be enabled to enlighten the stamp-collecting community.

There is a discrepancy in the two coats which may be noticed. The legs of Man all follow each other in the same direction. This is not the case with those of Naples, the lower leg disturbing the direction taken by the upper two.

I remain, sir, your obedient servant,

Lilley, Herts.

H. E. J.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. D. R.—Prince Couza was elected on the 5th of February, 1859.

G. D. W.—The 4 annas green of India was duly chronicled as changed from its original colour in No. 23, p. 89.

H. M.—The stamp presented to our subscribers with the October magazine, was the $\frac{1}{2}$ schilling of Bergerdorf, the history of which place you will find in an early number of our first volume.

M. McK.—For an extended account of Luxemburg and its stamps, we refer you to our article in the February number for 1864. Though the city of Luxemburg itself belongs to Holland, two-thirds of the territory own the sovereignty of Belgium; but the stamps being common to the whole, the head of neither king could be used with propriety; and consequently the Luxemburg arms are appropriate. The original silbergroschen and its equivalent in centimes were for postage to Germany.—'Timbrozeteal' is a mongrel, half French, half Greek, supposed to signify 'stamp-collecting' (literally, 'searching'.)

W. D. R.—The 2 annas red of India has the date 1858 assigned it by Moens, but Levraut gives three years later.—The 6 cents Liberia black is a proof, and would not pass the post unless by mistake, which may have been the case with your specimen.—The letters 'Mo' are for Monrovia the capital.—The next label you describe is an Austrian receipt stamp.—'Prag' is not the *half*, but the right appellation of what we call Prague.—The new Uruguays of course supersede the old ones.

H. H.—By a misprint the recently-emitted black Brunswick was valued at $\frac{1}{2}$ groschen instead of $\frac{1}{4}$ g. in our last number.

D. R., Holland.—Thanks for information that the 1 cent and 2 cents Dutch are expected to appear in the course of the present month.

W. C., Isle of Wight.—Your question has been already fully replied to more than once in previous numbers.

H. E. J., F. H. H., B., A LOVER OF RARITIES, &c.—We beg to tender best thanks to yourselves for assistance in the present number, and to all our correspondents collectively, during the past year, for much valuable information in reply to queries or otherwise; and, at the same time, we offer grateful acknowledgments for the great assistance afforded during the same period by various talented contributors. We beg also to contradict a foolish report of our intention to discontinue the publication of this magazine, hoping to wish our subscribers many a Happy New Year.

INCREDULOUS.—It is now nearly twelve months since we described the so-called Langton & Co. stamps with ship in centre. We could not vouch for their authenticity then, and have since received no evidence to prove they are other than impostors.

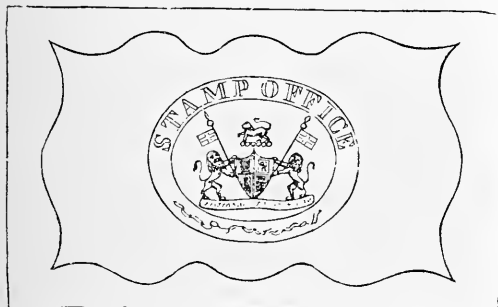
SUBSCRIBER.—You can have your magazine for last year bound in a handsome cloth cover, by forwarding them, with a remittance of 2/6, to our publishers, Queen-square House, Bath.

POSTAGE-STAMP PAPER & WATER-MARKS.

(Continued from page 7).

§ 2nd. WATERMARKS IN GENERAL.

THESE belong to two very distinct orders. In the first, the watermark consists of a single design, the details of which extend over a large portion of each sheet of paper employed. The result is, that various portions of the pattern are met with on each separate stamp, according to its situation; sometimes even no trace of the watermark can be detected, especially if the device be a large one, such as happens in the Indian stamps. On the sheet of the half-anna blue, first series, is found the original of the cut subjoined. The inscription in Indian



characters in the lower portion of the oval is incompletely represented, our sheet being imperfect.

We shall indicate all the different watermarks we have met with; but it cannot be expected that some few may not have escaped our notice.

In the second variety of watermark it is not made up of one large device, but by a concatenation of small ones, which are found reproduced on every stamp. It must be understood that their fabrication is not so sufficiently adjusted as to present the mark precisely in the middle of the stamp; a small portion of two, or a larger of one device only being at times observable. A cipher is not infrequently reversed, showing a 6 instead of a 9; and sometimes a paper prepared for one value is used by mistake for another.

Great difficulty often arises in detecting some watermarks. True as it is that they

may be seen on holding the specimen up to the light, we have always ascertained them more clearly by placing the stamp on something black. In this manner the design comes out readily on the back of the stamp.

The following are among the various watermarks in use:—

1st. A royal crown, several types of which exist, and will be noticed as we proceed.

2nd. The royal crown of England surmounting two C's, which watermark is specially employed for the British Colonies. The letters are the initials of 'Crown Colonies.'

3rd. A garland of oak or laurel.

4th. Emblems borrowed from the armorial insignia of any country: such as buckled garters, fleurs-de-lys, heraldic flowers (rose, thistle, and shamrock), a swan, an anchor, a pine-apple, or perhaps the escutcheon of the country emitting the stamps.

5th. A posthorn.

6th. A six-pointed star.

7th. A buckle.

8th. Lines, either diagonal, or crossing to form lozenges; or curved, and cutting each other, so as to form printed ovals, or undulated parallels, or serpentine.

9th. Printing letters or English capitals of different sizes. These latter are found interlaced, so as to form a sort of cipher.

10th. In some cases the watermark expresses the value of the stamp, either in letters at length, or in figures managed in two ways—either by a continuous single line, or by a double one to form the swell of the figure. To distinguish these, we shall designate the former as *thin*, and the latter as *thick* figures.

These various watermarks are often separated by vertical and horizontal lines noticeable on the edge of the stamps; they also frequently terminate in a framework, embracing sometimes an inscription, especially POSTAGE, or some analogous word, discoverable either at the edge of the sheet, or among the upper row of stamps.

§ 3rd. THE PAPER AND WATERMARKS OF EACH COUNTRY.

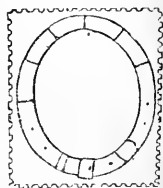
GREAT BRITAIN.—The earlier penny and twopenny stamps all bear a small crown as

appended. This watermark, originally employed, must have been used till 1854 or 1855, the time when the stamps began to be perforated; for it is found on the black and the brick-red penny with its varieties of hue, except the amaranth; the blue twopenny, both with and without white line, and two upper florets; but these stamps are seldom found with perforations. The different-coloured essays, with one corner effaced, show the same watermark.

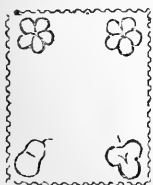


After 1854 and 1855 is found on the penny and twopenny stamps the much larger and more strongly-marked crown here represented. Almost all the specimens with this watermark are perforated. They are—the amaranth penny with two florets and two letters; the twopenny with a pair of florets and letters; the same with four letters, whatever the value of the minute figure at the sides; and the current penny with four letters, deep amaranth colour. Lastly, the official three-half-penny essay, never circulated.

Two additional watermarks are, moreover, found in the stamps of Great Britain, but on glazed paper only. One is a buckled garter seen on the fourpenny labels, either with or without letters at the angles. We possess, moreover, one of these stamps without letters, specimen-marked, printed on thick bluish paper, and wanting any watermark. Is this a specimen of engraving or of perforation?



The other represents the heraldic flowers of Great Britain—the rose, thistle, and shamrock. It is found on the threepenny, sixpenny, ninepenny and shilling stamps, whether with or without corner letters, as well as the existing large letter varieties. These latter watermarks date from 1855, when the stamps were first printed on glazed paper.



We need not mention the paper of the English envelopes, which is furnished by private individuals. [The penny ones are purchaseable at post-offices and stationers', but showing no peculiarity in the paper employed.] We should, nevertheless, remark that the vignettes of Mulready are traversed on each side by three coloured threads woven in the paper. The penny and twopenny undated envelopes have two threads likewise crossing the stamp.

SWEDEN.—NORWAY.—There is no watermark on any stamp of these countries.

RUSSIA AND HER POSSESSIONS.—The Russian envelopes offer one of the most splendid watermarks known. It consists of the arms of the country surrounded by a sort of mo-



saic, analogous to the pavement of a vestibule. The paper is official. The type here given is that of the 10 kop. black. The envelopes of the 20 k. and 30 k., which are of greater size, have the same armorial bearings, but larger still, and in a rectangle. The 5 k. blue has no watermark.

For POLAND the paper is watermarked by a very peculiar chequer-work [a double cross-bar, forming a regular lattice-work].

In relation to FINLAND we would quote a fact noted by Mons. Herpin ('Stamps of Finland'), which realizes a most important distinction—viz., that the paper of the first series of stamps is not rough. Thus, every stamp on rough paper must have been cut from an envelope. These envelopes are devoid of watermark; some are on drab-tinted paper. The Russian envelopes, printed in water-colours, have been previously noticed.

(To be continued).

THE GODDESS REPRESENTED ON SOME OF THE ANGLO-COLONIAL STAMPS.

BY FENTONIA.

Who is the classically-draped female depicted on the Trinidad, Mauritius, Barbados, Sydney, Liberia, and Cape of Good Hope stamps? If not Britannia, who can she be? Some very judicious remarks bearing upon this inquiry are introduced at vol. iii., p. 161 of this magazine; but we differ in *toto* from the writer's opinion that the 'martial maid' is intended to represent Liberty, except perhaps on the Liberian stamps, of which more anon: neither do we admit that her head-dress is the cap of liberty (Liberia always excepted), nor that the article in her hand is the rod of manumission. The rod or *festuca* was used by the master during the ceremony of manumission, while the *pileus* or brimless cap of liberty was put on by the slave himself after the ceremony. The effigy is undoubtedly that of Minerva, a favourite goddess with the Britons before their conversion to Christianity, and therefore, as well as for other reasons, an apt prototype of Britannia, the impersonation of Britain's glory, of Britain's commerce, and of Britain's wisdom. And how old is Britannia, it may be asked, considered as a symbolized individual? We know not: the earliest notice of her which we have been able to discover, relates that Charles II., being rapturously enamoured of his graceful and accomplished cousin, Frances Theresa Stewart, afterwards Duchess of Richmond, employed Philip Rotier, engraver to the Royal Mint, to execute a gold medal with his own bust on the obverse, and on the reverse a portrait of this celebrated beauty in the character of Minerva, said by Evelyn in his *Numismata* to have been an exquisite likeness, and it was from this medal that the infatuated monarch caused her likeness to be transferred, in 1672, to the copper coinage of the realm as the emblematic figure of Britannia, which has been continued with little alteration to the present day, and which, in the reign of William IV., was further promoted to the silver coinage,

by being impressed on the fourpenny-pieces. On turning to *Lodge's Portraits and Memoirs of Illustrious Personages*, we find the lovely Theresa in the guise of Minerva, as painted by Sir Peter Lely, wearing the classic *peplum*, the feather helmet, and the Medusa cuirass, holding in her hand, not the trident, but the long spear, just as it now appears on the Barbados and other stamps. Lodge also mentions the fact of her having been the original of Britannia on the copper coinage. Might not the trident then be a modern innovation suggested perhaps by the words of the national naval song, 'Britannia rules the waves,' composed by Dr. Arne about the year 1750? And when we recollect that copper pence were first issued ten or twelve years later (the early coinage was only halfpence and farthings), does it not seem a very likely supposition? We have two old prints before us as we write, one of which represents Britannia with the trident, the other with the spear, both having the characteristic British shield bearing the triple cross of St. Andrew, St. George, and St. Patrick—the sailor's 'union-jack.'

Having thus proved Britannia's right by prescription, if not by any stronger claim, to the attributes of Minerva, let us examine the stamps of Barbados, Trinidad, Mauritius, and Sydney minutely,—leaving those of Liberia and the Cape for separate consideration. In all we see the ship, so appropriate an emblem for a maritime nation. Minerva is said to have been the first who built a ship, and to have had a great zeal for navigation (see *Lempriere*). This same authority goes on to say that she is generally represented seated, with a helmet on her head surmounted by a large plume. In one hand she holds a spear, while the other rests on a shield. The ship appears on the present bronze coinage, as well as a Pharos or lighthouse. The bale of goods, indicating commerce, of which she was also the patron, is common to all these stamps. When connected with industry and the peaceful arts, she is sometimes found holding a distaff instead of a spear, in allusion to her being fond of wool-work (not the modern cross-stitch, we presume, but spinning and

weaving wool into useful garments).* This is, we believe, the mysterious implement wielded by her in the Sydney stamps, though it may possibly be a whip, as cautiously suggested by Mr. Pemberton (vol. iii., p. 39), with which she may be threatening her visitors if they do not go to work with the spade and pickaxe, to which she is pointing.

That Minerva should lend her plumes and emblems to a more modern favourite, the shield only being varied, is not without precedent; for we read that the city of Rome, in her overbearing prosperity, constituted herself a divinity, and ordered temples to be dedicated to her honour both in Rome and in the provinces, and that she was represented, like Minerva, completely armed, holding a spear in her hand, and having trophies at her feet (see *Banier's Mythology*); the shield representing the infancy of Romulus and Remus being the only difference. Her appearance is familiar to us in George Scharf's beautifully-illustrated edition of *Macaulay's Lays of Ancient Rome*, which, a note informs us, was copied from the column of Antoninus Pius in the Vatican.

Britannia on the triangular Cape of Good Hope stamps assumes a recumbent posture, doubtless one of expectancy and hope, of which the anchor is an additional emblem, though it is also found on one of the old prints of Britannia above alluded to. In the present issue Britannia sits up as if she had realized some of her hopes. A ram, when placed by Minerva, was an emblem of peace and tranquillity. This throws some light upon the difficulty alluded to at p. 180. The vine leaves of course refer to the Cape wine, of which some very questionable samples, under the name of South African sherry, are continually finding their way to England. A figure reclining, and nearly resembling the triangular issue, occurs on a medal of Antoninus Pius in the British Museum, of which a woodcut is given in the *Penny Cyclopædia*, art., *Britannia*. It may represent Minerva,

or it may be her rival Roma, as on the column in the Vatican just mentioned.

Lastly, we come to the Liberian stamps, and it seems somewhat more difficult to establish Britannia's claim to be the original intended by the engraver. Still, though we do not feel disposed to yield the point, we confess to a modicum of doubt as to the claims of the goddess of Liberty; she having so appropriate a relation to the name of the settlement, and to the freed negroes by whom it is colonized. We have Britannia's ship, her position by the sea-shore, seated upon a rock, and we have the spear. The article on her left is however rather puzzling; it may be a wheel, or it may be a shield. The cap of liberty which she wears, which is of that peculiar shape classically known as the 'Phrygian bonnet,' does not, in our opinion, invalidate Britannia's claims; and for this reason: in one of our old prints, Britannia, though wearing her helmet, has the cap of liberty hoisted on one of the prongs of her trident, with *Libertas* inscribed upon it; therefore to put it on and wear it appears only a suitable alteration in compliment to the peculiar antecedents of the settlement. From what has been advanced in support of our opinion, it will be seen that there is a sufficient and justifiable reason for the engraver returning to the original emblems of Minerva, in accordance with Sir Peter Lely's picture. It would, however, be interesting to know further how the beautiful Theresa is represented on the medals, of which there are doubtless many still in existence, as Lodge mentions that Rotier struck them in various sizes, possibly also, varied in design. With regard to Liberia, we are content to leave the question open for the present, though we think that Britannia, who has been made emphatically to exclaim that 'Britons never will be slaves,' is quite qualified to be the patron representative of Liberia's liberty; and in that spirit we will conclude with the poet's words, who, describing Great Britain, says:—

'There Liberty, delightful goddess, reigns,
Gladdens each heart, and gilds the fertile plains;
There firmly seated may she ever smile,
And pour her blessings on her favourite isle.'

* [The story of Arachne is sufficient proof of Minerva's proficiency in embroidery: we can scarcely imagine the powerful *bas bleu* condescending to 'homespun.'—Ed.]

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

OUR readers will find our budget for this month unusually long, but also, we hope, unusually attractive. If we may augur from the multitude of novelties which have just appeared, the present year will add as many treasures to philatelists' stores as its predecessor.

VICTORIA.—We shall be glad to raise this cry when that specimen of ugliness, the black sixpenny, is superseded. Perhaps it may be while this is in process of printing. In the meantime, we have to chronicle a new value for the colony. Laureated portrait of the Queen in oval frame; inscribed VICTORIA above; TENPENCE below; and figure of value on each side; corners filled in with ornamentation. Colour, slate-green. This stamp is doubtless intended to pre-pay the postage of letters sent *'via Marseilles.'*

NEWFOUNDLAND.—Our next illustration is quite a novelty of the country represented, in four respects—the shape, colour, and value, have been hitherto unemployed there, and the perforatory improvement is adopted. The stamp is oblong; sailing vessel in centre; NEWFOUNDLAND in arched bend above; THIRTEEN CENTS below; and the value in figures on each side, in a circle. Colour, orange. It presents the appearance of being from the *atelier* of the American Bank Note Company. A second representative of the same country is described by a correspondent as brown, oblong; ST. JOHN'S in a straight, and NEWFOUNDLAND in a curved line, above; FIVE CENTS below; a beaver to the right, standing on a slip of ground by the water-side in the middle.

A two cents also supersedes the well-known square penny. It is oblong, printed green on white, has, we are informed, a codfish in the centre: name above; value beneath. The decimal circulation being now introduced into the island, it follows that all the popular and long-admired series of this country will

shortly exist only in collections. Most probably the stamps above described are members of a new series, of which the other individuals are not yet known in this country.

SCOTCH LOCAL.—The label described in the last month's magazine is here pictured. We understand that the company employs also a somewhat similar stamp, inscribed PARCEL DELIVERY COMPANY, 12, ST. ANDREW SQUARE, in lieu of the represented words. This



latter is not perforated; the colour is yellow; value *twopence*, but no indication thereof.

BELGIUM.—Three more values are now in circulation: the 10 c. grey, 20 c. blue, and 40 c. rose. All differ in detail, but resemble each other in bearing the same portrait, and in having the word *POSTES* at the top, and value at bottom. In the 10 c. and 20 c. the inscriptions are placed in marginal labels, but the head is, in the former, enclosed in an oval; and in the latter, in a circle. The 40 c., by far the most pronounced in appearance of the three, has the portrait in a larger circle, but above it is a large Egyptian ornament filling the corners; *POSTES* follows the circle, and large numerals occupy the lower corners.

EGYPT.—We quote from the Brussels magazine that several essays have been submitted to the Egyptian government, and that the favoured set was to be emitted on the 1st of January, that would make it about a fortnight later according to our date, so that we have but just received the novelties. Our authority adds that the viceroy was

hesitating, and with reason, to decide upon the type which seemed to have most chance of success, and which was simply hideous. Not to shock the prejudices of fanatics who objected to any effigy or emblem, nei-



ther sun, rays, moon, nor stars were represented, nothing but Arabic inscription and numerals. The series lies before us, and an

engraving of the 10 paras is given. It can, however, but indifferently render the original type, in consequence of the absence of colour. We were agreeably surprised at their appearance, after the diatribe of our continental journalist quoted above. The style of printing resembles the existent Turkish, but the execution is not quite so successful, in our opinion. They are perforated, colour on white, of four denominations; 5 paras light slate-green, like the one centesimo of Italy; 10 paras pale-brown; 20 paras azure; and one piastre light-rose. The devices are mathematical, differing in each specimen; the sole point of resemblance being figures of value and PARA or P^{re} for *piastre* at opposite angles. Above, below, on either side, and in the centre are Arabic inscriptions printed, like the Turkish, in black, of which the latter alone is the same on each several label. It will be a puzzle for the uninitiated to ascertain the proper position of the stamp, the pattern being no guide in whatever direction placed. Neither do the words or ciphers assist, as they *must* lie upside down in the rose and blue, and sidewise in the others. The outlandish characters are the sole indices, and to the inexperienced they look just as explanatory whichever way beheld: but the collector may be guided by the *central* word, which signifies *Egypt*, and must stand with the large curve *uppermost*. Since writing the above, we have received intelligence of three other values, 2 piastre yellow, 5 piastre rose, 10 piastre light-blue.

ARGENTINE CONFEDERATION.—In relation to the stamp illustrated by the accompanying portrait, specimens of which were forwarded



us by an Australian correspondent, in default of reliable information, we cannot do better than give an English rendering of the remarks made by a Parisian philatelic journalist, some months since.

He prefaces his comments by quoting Solomon's well-known proverb on novelties, and proceeds to say that as nothing sometimes appears more improbable than the truth, he is perhaps unjust towards these little montrosities; but, in the absence of

further information, contents himself with crying, Beware!

Right or wrong, the emission is composed of three individuals of similar but not identical type, typographed black on colour, like the lower values of the La Guaira set, which we should assign to the same engraver. There is the *medio real* on yellow fawn, the *un real* on indigo, and the *dos reales* on deep yellow paper. They are evidently from three distinct dies. In the half real, the representative of the sun appears to be suffering from excruciating pain. The others seem more comfortable. There are specimens both postmarked and otherwise, but that circumstance, such is the progress, and, we may sadly add, the success of forgery, no longer stamps the genuine character of the specimen.

THURN AND TAXIS.—A fac-simile of the recently-issued 1 kreuzer envelope for the German States, forming the southern division of the Thurn and Taxis postal league, forms our next illustration. Stamp and inscription of the same colour (green) on the right. An embossed post-horn, surrounded by rays, forms the L. S. The envelopes are as long, but not so broad as those for the higher values.



UNITED STATES.—In addition to the large, handsome label described last month, there is a 10 cents green with portrait of Franklin, and a 25 cents red portrait of Lincoln. Values and heads excepted, the designs are alike. The American mails the past month have brought over several novelties in the way of United States envelopes, including three values not hitherto issued by the government. They are the 9 c. yellow, 18 c. red, and 30 c. green, respectively. The device is precisely similar to that of the well-known 10 cents green, transverse oval, head of Washington to the left, with the figure of value in a circle on each side: value in words at length on the upper edge of the upright inner oval which encloses the bust; U. S. POSTAGE on the lower edge: the spaces between the two ovals filled by a pattern resembling a palm or laurel branch. The

general effect is pleasing, far more to our taste than the recently-emitted envelopes of 3 and 6 cents.

The paper on which the specimens we describe from are struck is the ordinary creamy-yellow, watermarked P. O. D. U. S. (post-office department, United States) in lines running obliquely down the sheet of paper, and many times repeated. The size of the envelopes is foolscap, and all of them bear, struck in black ink, on the top near the stamp, Messrs. Wells, Fargo, & Co.'s frank-mark:—PAID, WELLS, FARGO, & CO., THROUGH OUR CALIFORNIAN AND ATLANTIC EXPRESS; and printed across the end is the legend, IF NOT DELIVERED IN — DAYS RETURN TO—, printed in italic. We are informed by the correspondent who sent us these envelopes, that the three values above mentioned were manufactured especially by government for use by Messrs. Wells, Fargo, & Co., and to facilitate their business. Before we explain the use of these envelopes, thus franked by the mark of the firm, we will mention that we also have received from another source two copies of the ten cents green transverse oval envelopes, similarly marked with the frank stamp, the one in black, the other in red—the former on decidedly yellow paper, the latter on lighter; the former with the envelope die struck in light green, the latter in green of an olive hue, and bearing the three internal lines for the address, with the date of the patent, NOV. 20, 1855, watermark, the same as in the others we have described. These envelopes have no external printing on them. There yet remains a sixth envelope, which is one of the ten cents, olive green, transverse oval on white paper, having at its end printed across it in pink ink, WELLS, FARGO, & CO., $\frac{1}{2}$ OUNCE PAID FROM ST. JOSEPH TO PLACERVILLE, PER PONY EXPRESS, the well-known device, but carrying at the top and above the space usually occupied by the direction, the following printed address—AGENT OF PONY EXPRESS, ST. JOSEPH, MO.,—FOR——.

A very little reflection, when one bears in mind that the government of the United States have an absolute monopoly, just as the English government of the postal ser-

vice in its territories, serves to make clear the meaning and utility of these marks on the Government envelopes. These envelopes of themselves, without any additional matter marked on them, are the legal mode of payment for transmission by post within the government dominions, and as far as the government service extends. Messrs. Wells, Fargo, & Co. are, like all other persons, legally prevented from undertaking the service within these limits; they therefore take the letters at the extreme end to which the State post goes, and the government stamp defrays the cost of transmission up to and as far as the hands of Messrs. Wells & Co.'s agent, at their nearest forwarding station. Messrs. Wells & Co. print their own frank-mark on the government envelopes, and their charge for their own service in addition to the government charges.

In the instance of the St. Joseph to Placerville service, the inscription printed directs a delivery to the Pony Express agent, Messrs. Wells & Co.'s servant, who then takes the letter and forwards it by their service on its further course to its destination. The marks and franks of Wells, Fargo, & Co. therefore commence to be available where the government service breaks off; and the convenience and usefulness of prepaying the double postage, by adopting a system that ensures both to the State and the private carrier their charges at the same time, are very obvious. We suppose the italic printing on the 9, 18, and 30 cent envelopes, to be intended to be filled up by the sender with his name and address. The United States post undertakes to return all dead letters, and no *delivery*, as we understand the term, being made in America, all letters are called for at the post-office, so that if the intended recipient failed to call for his letter within the specified time, it would be transmitted *unopened* to the sender. The 9, 18, and 30 cents were not, we are informed, issued so late as December 28th, 1865; but probably the new year will soon see them put to their destined service.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The large-lettered type series, emission, issue, set, or edition is now completed by the admission of the nine-

penny label into its ranks. Our first information of the fact was a letter from Italy asking for a specimen. On application at the nearest post-office, we could only obtain a few sorted and crumpled representatives of the defunct stamp, which seemed to have lain by for years. In fact, we were told the denomination was never inquired after!

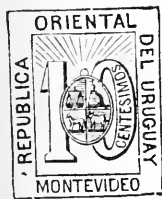


LUBECK.—The newly-issued $1\frac{1}{2}$ schilling of this city, chronicled last month, forms our next illustration.

SWEDEN. — Intelligence has been transmitted us, that lalals, 17 öre and 20 öre in value, are on the

point of appearing.

AUSTRIA.—A Prussian correspondent writes, that all denominations of Austrian stamps, except the 5 kr., will shortly be extinct; a uniform rate of 5 kreuzer having been settled for the postage of single letters throughout the empire, commencing on New Year's day of the present year.



URUGUAY.—A representation of the green 10 cents of Monte Video, all the partners of which postal company were described in our last number, is appended.

KALTBAD.—One of our correspondents informs us that a friend of his possesses one of the stamps noticed in our November number of last year (page 176). It came on an envelope direct from the place. This adds little or nothing to the elucidation of the nature, object, &c., of the emission.

NEW GRANADA.—This prolific country again favours us with a set of stamps issued for a peculiar purpose, of which the adjoining illustration affords an individual example. They all carry the same inscription, SOBRE PORTE, signifying 'additional postage,' and are said to be purposed for affixing to letters transmitted to foreign countries. The set are printed in black on colour, blue in the case before us; there is an *un peso* lilac rectangular also, but the



50 centavos yellow has the corners cut, forming an irregular octagon. The armorial bearings of the country figure on all three, but the details differ. The wheels do not show in the *un peso*, but the white blank behind the bird is filled in with rays. In addition to the value in words, the conventional substitute for dollar and the figure 1 completes a circle partly formed by the inscription. The octagonal frame of the 50 centavos containing inscription and value, leaves a white angle at each corner. The position of the eagle is different in all; in the latter stamp he is much larger, and has both white back-ground as well as rays behind him. The armorial escutcheon varies in size alone, the device being identical.

FENIAN ESSAY.—What next? We shall have to note, perhaps, some day, an emanation from our sable brethren of Jamaica.



The stamp is not ill-designed, however much so the intents of its concoctors may have been. The specimen presented to view is green on white, not perforated; POSTAGE above; value below; REPUBLIC OF IRELAND left and right;

harp of Erin in central oval, encompassed by garter inscribed LIBERTAS ET NATALE SOLUM; shamrock in each spandril. For further information respecting this curiosity, we cannot do better than quote the letter of the Fenian postal secretary to the party from whence we received it. It runs thus:—

New York, Dec. 8, 1865.

James M. Hunter, Esq.,

Dear Sir,

In answer to your inquiries of the 3rd instant, I beg leave to state that three designs for postal stamps have been submitted to our department. The designs are upon wood. The values are three, ten, and twenty-four cents; the twenty-four cent has been printed in green and lilac as proofs, and the three and ten are printed in green and blue. At your earnest request, I send you specimens of the twenty-four cent stamp, the only one attainable at present. Hoping my information will prove satisfactory,

I remain, yours respectfully,

JAMES W. McADAMS.

TURKEY.—We have just received specimens of a new stamp for Constantinople. In general appearance it differs considerably from its elder brethren. It bears the Moslem emblems in a vertically-lined circle, which is inclosed in a square frame with

diverging rays above and below. An inscription in Turkish in the upper margin signifies *PARAS*, and another on the right *POSTE LOCALE*, and the legend is repeated in French on the opposite sides. The numeral of value, 5, is placed in the lower corners, and the Turkish equivalent in the upper. We learn from *Le Timbrophile* that, by a recent firman of the Sultan, the exclusive right was conferred on M. Liannos (a gentleman of Greek origin), to establish and carry on for the next six years a local post for facilitating correspondence between the inhabitants of Constantinople and the suburban districts. He commenced business on the 13th ult.; and issued the stamp above referred to, 5 paras blue, for the purpose of prepaying the postage of journals, together with two other values, 20 paras green, and 40 paras (1 piastre) rose. These stamps were engraved in this country, are printed in black ink on coloured paper, dentedated, and, we should say, would take rank as a government issue.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—Our readers may remember a 13 cents of the same type as annexed, appearing in the November number of our second volume, page 169. We have now much pleasure in adding this 2 cents to the series, and believe there is a 1 cent also, and perhaps a 5 cents, completing the values employed in those distant isles.

MAURITIUS.—This weathercock of an island has again reverted to a green sixpenny, though paler and bluer than that which was issued previously.

PARAGUAY.—Essay-excluding collectors must now find a place in their albums for the *stamps* of Paraguay, if, as we have every reason to believe, the appended cut represents one of the current series for that exclusive republic. It will be seen that the device of the well-known Parisian emanations is not lost to sight, but the stamps bear visible traces in their

style and execution of their South American origin. The values are three:—1 real red (for home postage); 2 reales green; and 4 reales blue (for foreign letters).

SPAIN.—Our readers will probably *not* be surprised to hear that a new series has been emitted for this country. But they may be surprised to hear what, according to a foreign journalist, is the cause of the annual change which now seems to be the established rule at the Madrid post-office. He points out that the only difference between the portrait on this and on last year's set is in the arrangement of the hair; and states that it is the 'ir-resolution of the Queen in the choice of a *coiffure*, which obliges the Spanish government to change the stamps annually.'



'Uncertain, coy, and hard to please,'

must be Queen Isabella, and sad the trials of her hair-dresser. Another explanation was once offered to us by a Spanish gentleman: viz., that the periodical alteration arose from a yearning on the part of the postal authorities to emit a perfect type of stamp-beauty. How far they have advanced towards the *ne plus ultra* may be judged by the above illustration of their engraver's last effort. The series, of which it is a member, consists of six values, all of the same device: 2 cuartos rose; 4 cuartos blue; 12 cuartos orange; 19 cuartos brown; 10 cent. de escudo (equal to 1 real) green; and 20 cent. de escudo (2 reales) lilac. The impression is in colour on white paper.

SHANGHAI.—In the preceding number we described some local Chinese, taking information from the cut and letter-press of M.

Maury's magazine for November last. We are now about to chronicle a similar, but by no means identical set from actual ocular inspection of specimens. They must be intended to supersede the 'candareen' issue, whose withdrawal from circulation was notified



to our publishers by a correspondent from the place. Why they should have been so short-lived we cannot imagine; perhaps their size and uncouth appearance condemned them, as on comparison of the appended cut of one of them with the labels before us, the latter must undeniably bear the palm of beauty. The points of similarity and discrepancy will be noted as we proceed. The defunct series, like the others, numbers four stamps, which bear SHANGHAI L. P. O., above; value beneath; Chinese characters at corners and both sides; and dragon in the centre. This will nominally identify both sets, and the effect is what might be expected were directions embodying such requirements given to two engravers, and their several designs brought to view. We will first touch upon the similarity, then advert to the variations in the two productions.

The upper inscription is the same, as are also all the Chinese characters at the four corners, and on the right side. There ends the resemblance, even the values, colours, and denominations vary. In what we conclude to be, 'from private information received,' the current issue, there is a pink 2 cents, a violet 4 cents, a green 6 cents, and a blue 8 cents. It will be remarked that the monetary term employed in the others was candareens: as mandarins may be anglicised gents, perhaps candareens is the celestial equivalent for cents. The inscription on the left side we have intimated to be diverse. In the stamp we described from there are three Chinese words; the same number is on all the cent series, except the 6 cents, which has four. Being different on each denomination, we conclude they specify it, as no doubt the remaining characters are the Chinese rendering of the nature and purpose of the stamp. Of the three words alluded to—the upper, allowing for the difficulty of representing the uncouth letters, is like the middle one on the pink 2 cents, the lower resembles the upper, and the central one the lowest on all the others.

The dragon, much more picturesque than its prototype, which looks like a worm with a monster's head, figures in a different framework in each stamp. That in the 2 c.

is perfectly, in the 4 c. irregularly, oval; background diapered, and spandrils filled in with ornamentation. The other two values have the creature on a plain ground in diverse fancy frames, forming an inner rectangle. Small circles enclose the characters at the angles in the violet and green, squares in the pink, and irregular pentagons in the blue stamps. This circumstance, in conjunction with the variations in the central frames, renders the enclosures of the values and inscription totally different in the 2 c., 4 c., and 8 c. That of the side characters varies also in the last stamp—the 6 c. in these respects assimilates with the 4 c. We may add that the individuals before us are perforated, and that they are smaller than the candareen stamps, but, like them, colour on white paper.



BAVARIA.—Another, and another, and another! Our publishers are extra liberal this month with their shoals of illustrations. The subjoined one, with which we close our list, was notified to the philatelic world last month, but the engraving was not ready.

IS STAMP-COLLECTING ON THE DECLINE?

THE press has lately referred to stamp-collecting as a pursuit which has had its day, and is now dying out, and this notice appears to have spread widely and been accepted as truth. To prevent collectors, with partial means of forming an opinion on the subject, from being misled by such statements, we will devote the necessary space to a brief consideration of facts sufficient to show their incorrectness.

The attention for a time bestowed on philately by that wonderful being, 'the public,' arose from several causes. Foremost was the novelty of the thing. The idea of gathering into a book samples of the postage stamps of all nations seemed to be indeed something 'new under the sun;' and, being new, it was made the subject of a string of trite remarks by scores of journalists, who took little trouble to ascertain whether the

ridicule which they lavished on it was deserved. The *Saturday Review*, in an article on 'Softening of the Brain,' was good enough to include stamp-collectors amongst those who suffered from the malady, and on our own advent one of the London papers was pleased to style us 'the organ of the most puerile of manias.' Of course, when remarks such as these had been made by those who would not investigate the matter any further there was nothing left to say, and, as a natural consequence, the subject dropped.

The requisitions for cancelled postage stamps made by numbers of collectors to their friends, during the infancy of philately, was another cause of its publicity. At that time no arrangements had been made to supply the demand for a new commodity, the army of collectors had, therefore, to subsist by contributions levied on their friends. Whoever had a foreign correspondent or two had several applicants for the stamps which came on the replies to his letters, and the subject was thus brought under general notice. This pressure, once an indication of the popularity of collecting, has ceased to be felt to any considerable extent, but its cessation has not been caused by decrease in the number of collectors. Quite the contrary. So many recruits were added to the ranks that it became a profitable undertaking to establish a regular trade in stamps, and for that purpose to appoint agents in other countries to buy up and transmit large quantities for sale at home. A crowd of dealers was soon actively working to meet the demand, and each making every effort to secure to himself the largest amount of custom.

The effect of the competition thus produced has been most beneficial to collectors. The prices of the great majority of stamps have been reduced to a level, which places them within the reach of all classes, and this has had the effect of largely increasing the number of purchasers. Four or five years since the cost of the commonest was considerable. Referring to one of the earliest price catalogues we find the $\frac{1}{4}$ schg. red Mecklenburg, the blue and red Ionians, and the Hamburg Locals, charged one-and-six-

pence each; the 4 c. Luxembourg, and $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Malta, a shilling; and the 1 c. French, fourpence. When such as these were only obtainable at considerable expense, what must have been the cost of rarities? At that time, a collection of a couple of hundred stamps was a respectable one; now, the cheapness of most varieties renders it easy to procure a thousand.

Yet the traffic which takes place in stamps is almost unknown to the general public. The outward signs of its operation are very slight. Dealers rarely advertise in the papers, and few if any keep shops exclusively for the sale of stamps. Four-fifths of the business is done by correspondence. The post-office daily receives and delivers large quantities of 'bits of paper,' and it must often happen that the bulk of the letter is in inverse ratio to the value of its contents. That there are fewer stamp periodicals is not due to any decline in the interest taken in the pursuit. Any one who will take the trouble to examine the numerous ephemeral publications current a year or two since, will at once see that their puerility and lack of useful information were sufficient to condemn them, and when to this was added the improper way in which, as commercial enterprises, they were managed, no one can wonder that they enjoyed but a short and limited circulation.

We have hitherto confined our remarks to the condition of stamp-collecting in this country. If we turn our attention to the Continent, we find that it is more popular than ever there. The state of trade is the natural index of the ascendancy of philately. Accordingly we find that there are dealers in France, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Italy, Denmark, and Greece, and it is fair to presume by their continuance that they all have a remunerative custom for their wares. In the three first-named countries there are also well-conducted and flourishing magazines, entirely devoted to the stamp-collecting interest.

In Paris—pre-eminently the head-quarters of philately—is a society numbering among its members the *élite* of French collectors, formed for the purpose of prosecuting systematic research into all matters of interest

connected with stamps. Two journals, *redacted* with marked ability, are also carried on there, and one of these will contain reports of the proceedings of the *Société Philatélique*. Besides this, there is in one of the best-known thoroughfares—the Rue Lepeletier—a handsome shop in which only stamps and stamp publications are sold. It is the office of *Le Collectionneur des Timbres Poste*, is adorned with an enlarged representation of the United States 2 c. over the door, and of the English 3d. and French 2 c. on the signboard above; and is, as the proprietor styles it, a ‘curiosity of the capital.’

The continued popularity of the pursuit amongst the juveniles of Paris has been lately caricatured by M. Victorien Sardou, in a comedy entitled *Le Benoiton Famille*, which has been played before their French Majesties, at Compiegne, and has had rare success. In the course of the piece, which is a severe satire on fashionable domestic life in France, a little child between six and seven years old, a member of the Benoiton family, is introduced. He is (to quote the account of a contemporary) ‘amazingly impudent, and also takes a keen interest in shares—he, and a number of children of like age, having set up a miniature Bourse where they speculate in postage stamps. Fanfan is an acute operator in the miniature market, “Papa told me,” said he, recounting one of his most successful achievements, “that the Federalists were victorious, so off I go to the Bourse. I buy all the Southerns in the market against my English and Italian stock. Baby Lasalle, who wasn’t in the secret, cried, Is he turned ninny, this Fanfan, to go and buy up all the Southerns like this? But at half-past four who had the head when they found that there were no more Confederate stamps? So then, of course, I sold all mine at a tremendous profit, and they were in a fine passion (the others), I can tell you.”’ It will appear by this that French youth possess an English taste for business.

Turning from the Old World to the New, we find that there are several small journals in the States, and in our North-American colonies, and no lack of advertisements in

any of them. In fact, judging from the number and length of the dealers’ announcements, there must have been a great increase in the number of buyers within the last few months. Although collectors on the other side labour under the disadvantage of being at a great distance from the stamp centres, there is no reason to doubt that they are able to bring their books into a respectable state. Indeed, one album which we had the pleasure of inspecting might take rank with some of the best in Europe.

In continuance, we may add that in the West Indies, and as far south as Brazil, philatelists are resident; that a considerable number are scattered through all the Antipodean colonies—that India and China each possess some members of the fraternity; and, finally, that there is a sprinkling in Port Elizabeth, Cape Town, and British Kaffraria!

It thus appears that the circle of collectors is widening, not diminishing; and it is satisfactory to know that the pursuit now finds its followers, not only amongst the youthful portion of the community, but also amongst maturer minds—clergymen, doctors, lawyers, stockbrokers, merchants, iron-masters, beside numbers of private gentlemen, devote their leisure to the acquirement of a collection of specimens of postage labels. The consequence of these accessions to the great body of philatelists is, that stamps and their collaterals are more strongly and earnestly studied, and with more solid results than formerly. The smaller details are examined and noted with increased care, and every effort is made to get correct information, which, however, is now more easily obtained. So widely-spread is collecting that inquiries concerning the stamps of almost any given country find ready answers from philatelists resident on the spot, and contributions to stamp lore are thus received from all parts of the world, as our own correspondence columns testify. Nor is it likely that the interest now manifested in so many quarters should suddenly cease. Notwithstanding many adverse prophecies, stamp-collecting has held its ground thus far, and there is no reason to suppose that it will not continue to do so till stamps ‘shall be no more.’

THE RED HALF ANNA OF INDIA.

BY THE AUTHOR OF 'THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF
BRITISH GUIANA,' ETC.

THE description of the red half anna of India, given by 'A Lover of Rarities,' in the January number of the magazine, very accurately identifies an undoubtedly false type, long known to collectors, and a copy of which has been in the writer's possession for several years.

It is very singular that the identical history given by our correspondent, applies to this example, which likewise came direct from India, from a person utterly incapable of intentional deception: it was presented as 'a great rarity' of considerable age. As truly stated by our writer, it is of a bright red, like the real type, but on close examination the shade is found to be of a more carmine hue than in the genuine. The real test, however, lies in the paper and watermark. As the writer's esteemed friend, Dr. Magnus, pointed out long ago, all the first issue of stamps of India are printed on paper bearing a design in the watermark extending over the whole sheet. The figure of this watermark will, no doubt, appear in the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine* in due course with the rest of the illustrations of Dr. Magnus's article; * meantime, the general device may be stated to be a curved line forming a rectangle, inclosing the royal arms with supporters and pennons, in an oval, inscribed STAMP OFFICE. It is figured in Moens' journal, *Le Timbre Poste*, for June 1865, page 43. The half anna blue, 1 anna red, 2 annas green, and 4 annas red and blue, all show this watermark in traces sufficient to identify this paper, which was made specially, and used only for the first series of British India.

Now it is evident, *a priori*, that if a half-anna red be found on paper thus watermarked, it must be genuine; for the paper is official in itself. Further, the forgers have never yet succeeded in counterfeiting a watermark; and of all known watermarks this is one of the veriest impossibility to fabricate; presenting difficulties in the manufacture almost as great as in that

* [It will be observed in the present number.—Ed.]

of the paper used for Bank of England notes. Again, this paper is of a peculiar and hard texture, stout but not dense, and assumes a tint easily recognizable by experience, but hard to describe verbally. As the watermark extends over the whole sheet, many of the stamps show no sign of it, others only a curved line; consequently, in the absence of any trace of watermark, recourse must be had to comparison of the paper with that used for the first issue; and a very little practice, with close attention at first, will give great facility, and no difficulty in forming a correct conclusion need be feared. This criterion is the more necessary to be remembered, as no doubt a forgery with the nine-and-a-half arches will, sooner or later, turn up; and probably be foisted on English collectors, from India.

The forgery in point so truthfully described by 'A Lover of Rarities' is on a white paper, *without watermark of any kind*, of a substance a little too thick for the genuine paper, and of a tint far too dead white. It is lithographed, and evidently copied from the blue half anna. The half-anna red with nine-and-a-half arches on each side, is found on the official watermarked paper; thus corresponding with all the Indian stamps of the first issue. No half-anna red of this type has been found on other paper; and no half-anna red with eight arches has been yet produced on this official paper. This is alone decisive in our judgment; the finding of the one type on the official paper, and the failure to find the other type on such paper puts an end to all controversy. Let any opponent bring forward an instance of the stamp, not of the nine-and-a-half arches type, on the paper used for the first Indian issue.

Further as points of difference, the nostril of the Queen is, in the true type, formed by a straight line; in the forged in question, it is curved just as in the blue half anna. The lettering is smaller; but the corner ornaments are the same: the general expression of the countenance, moreover, is very different.

A very common device of the thievish race of forgers was (and perhaps still is) to make a red half anna out of the one anna by

altering the word 'one' to 'half;' and this being neatly done, has deceived many; especially as a genuine postmark often appears to guarantee the authenticity of the specimen. No one but a child ought to be for a moment deceived by this fraud; a glance at the top angles shows the ornament to be the Maltese cross of the one anna, and not the peculiar little ornament that is distinctive of the half anna both red and blue.

As further proof, if needed, of the correctness of our views, we may cite the article by M. Moens in the journal referred to, and the fact that this opinion is the received opinion among all continental amateurs. We have ourselves seen and carefully remarked the specimens of the red half anna in the famous collections of Mons. Herpin (whose name is recognised as that of the great authority), Mons. de Sauley, M. le Comte de Primoli, and M. Bécourt in Paris; M. Berger-Levrault in Strasbourg, and M. Perinnet in Brussels; while in England we have inspected that of Mr. Pearson Hill, and that formerly belonging to Mr. Stainforth, as well as a host of the other principal collections of the day. In every collection that we have named the red half anna has the nine-and-a-half arches, and is on the watermarked paper; and no other has been accredited genuine by any of the gentlemen we have referred to.

Thus, not only does the stamp itself evidence its authenticity, but the concurrent testimony of all the leading authorities rejects any other type than the nine-and-a-half arched example. We are not aware of any collector or amateur, English or foreign, whose name and authority in the philatelic world are known, who accredits any other type.

The writer as matter of curiosity some years ago formed a collection of falsified stamps, and has in this book no fewer than *five* different and distinct forgeries of the red half anna; uniform however in this one feature, they all bear eight in lieu of nine-and-a-half arches.

Within the last few weeks a fresh forgery, lithographed and very well executed, has appeared; and seems to have fallen into the

hands of a well-known firm of stamp dealers in the north. The fatal omission in the number of the arches still remains in this also; a guard to the unwary, and a certificate of falsehood on the face of the stamp. The lettering of this forgery is copied from that of the half-anna blue, and is too broad and square for that of the genuine half-anna red; while the neck of the effigy is much too wide, especially at the base.

The vexed question whether the half anna was ever issued and in circulation or not, we do not pretend to resolve; but the bias of our opinion is in the negative.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

WHO WAS THE FIRST POSTBOY? Cadmus: he carried letters from Phœnicia to Greece.

A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.—A letter was found a few days ago in one of the post-office boxes in Vienna addressed to 'The infant Jesus in heaven, to be given to St. Peter.' It contained the prayer of a child to have a great number of presents at Christmas.

A PICTORIAL ENVELOPE.—We have lately seen an envelope, issued we presume by some association for preventing Sunday labour, about half of which is filled with representations of work in connection with the carriage and delivery of letters. The upper left-hand corner contains a drawing of the central post-office. A crowd of men, letter-laden, are rushing up the steps, and one of Her Majesty's red carts is pulled up in front of the building. In a line with this, running along the top, are a locomotive and carriages, and porters wheeling about bags of letters. A man is making off with one of these bags, when he is startled by the appearance on his right of a text from Ezekiel. In the left lower corner a mother is showing her child a book with IV. on the open page; whilst, divided only by a partition, a man—probably intended for the child's father—is writing away at his desk. In the right corner is a scroll surrounding the space for the stamp. Altogether the effect of this monitory envelope is rather ludicrous than otherwise. The specimen from which we describe has an octagon postmark, dated 1849.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE BRITISH GUIANA STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—It seems almost like sending coals to Newcastle for me to offer any remarks on the British Guiana stamps, after the excellently-arranged paper which appeared in your magazine of July last. But what I desire to say is by way of *addenda* rather than *corrigenda*. I do not pretend to judge of the earliest issues. They are so scarce that it is next to impossible to obtain a sufficient number from which to form an accurate opinion. It seems scarcely credible that the PATIMUS series were in use for more than two years exclusively. I rather lean to the cloudy assertion of a gentleman who some years ago resided in British Guiana, who says that to the best of his recollection, they were originally receipt stamps, and

only occasionally used for postage. The absence of the word *POSTAGE*, which is found on the large oblongs, rather favours this idea. I have seen a blue 4 cents *PATIMUS* postmarked April 15th, 1853, and have been told that they occasionally came on letters of a much later date. Of the 1853 dated series there are two colours in red, and two patterns in blue. Lewes & Pemberton at page 35 of *Forged Stamps*, &c., allude to this latter fact as if it were applicable to both values, whereas I have only met with it in the 4 cents. The vermilion-red, I believe, was the earliest, and is, I presume, what the writer means by the ambiguous expression 'the original issue,' and which he finds generally postmarked 1853. I have one of July 1856; while the second sort of red, a red-brown nearly resembling the subsequent 1 cent of 1862, generally bears a later date—mine come down to January, 1860. With regard to the two varieties of the blue, I am not able definitely to fix their respective dates, but as I have the sort whose corners correspond with the red impressions, postmarked as late as March, 1859, I presume the small-pattern corners were the earliest; probably coeval with the vermilion 1 cent.

1860.—Perforations were introduced this year. The two varieties of 4 cents and 24 cents would be more distinctly described as having *dotted* sails and *undotted* sails. I am not aware that any values, except the 4 and 24 cents, are ever found with *undotted* sails. In 1864 a fourth shade of the 12 cent appeared; a very pale mauve. There is an 8 cents red-brown coeval with the 1 cent pink. These values afterwards exchanged colour, and the 8 c. became pink and the 1 c. red-brown.

THE PROVISIONAL STAMPS.—Having had an opportunity of inspecting a number of these ugly stamps sent me direct from the colony, I can endorse nearly all that the writer says respecting them. They are not, however, *rectangles* but *quadrangles*. The 'something added' beneath the initials, is A. S. B. G., which I guess may mean, 'Assistant Secretary British Guiana.' The inner quadrangle is not formed by four *plain* lines except in forgeries. In genuine specimens the top and bottom lines only are *plain*; the side lines are composed of four small strokes, each generally distinctly dis-united from the other. The white appearance of the writing on the blue provisionals is, I think, simply caused by water, acting on some chemical property, either in the paper or the ink. I had one in quite black ink, which I soaked in water to remove it from the letter, when the writing became quite white. It is not wise, however, to found an opinion on one solitary instance.

If the postal motto, *domus patinusque vicissim* be of commercial import, it may be freely translated 'we give and take by turns;' or 'we bring and fetch away alternately;' and is intelligibly represented by the two ships going and coming in the 'Patimus' stamps. Supposing this to be the true interpretation of the motto, the solitary ship on all subsequent issues is comparatively an inadequate illustration of its meaning.

Clifton.

FENTONIA.

A FRENCH 50 c. STAMP.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Having seen it asserted in the December number of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, among the correspondence, that 'there is no genuine 50 c. French,' I think you may like to know that I have seen one in a friend's collection, who firmly asserts that it came off a letter (from France) which had been through the post. The colour is vermilion; the head is not quite the same as that on the current French stamps; it is more like the

essay described on page 8 of last year's volume. It is obliterated with black horizontal lines. I shall feel obliged for any information concerning it.

Yours, &c., &c.,

B. H. S.

P.S.—Had the stamp been mine, I would have sent it for your inspection.

[The French stamps have been too thoroughly gone into by the Parisian amateurs for a 50 c. genuine to have escaped notice. The black horizontal lines are a favourite mark with stamp forgers.—ED.]

THE ARMS OF NAPLES.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Your correspondent, H. E. J., asks in the number for January why the device of the three joined legs is found on the old Neapolitan stamps. The answer is because they were the heraldic device of Sicily anciently called by the Greeks *Trinacria* (or the three-caped) from its triangular shape.

Yours faithfully,

W. H. H.

POSTAGE STAMP DEVICES.

[In the interesting letter under the above head, in our last month's magazine, owing to a mistake of the printer in transcribing from the author's corrected proof, the fourth paragraph appeared to us erroneous, and was incorrectly altered. It should stand—his descendant, the duchess of Sutherland, created countess of Cromartie in 1861, with remainder to her second son, who thus bears the courtesy title of viscount Tarbut. Her grace's second title in her own right, doubtless bears the legs of Man on her coat.—ED.]

THE DATE OF ISSUE OF THE OLD NATAL.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—As collateral evidence of the correctness of the supposition, in the article on the first issue of Natal, as to the date of emission, I beg to enclose an extract from the *Illustrated London News* of Nov. 6, 1862. It is entitled 'Entrance of the first mail steamer into Port Natal,' and is accompanied by an engraving. 'On August 13 (1852), the long-expected steamer, *Sir Robert Peel*, anchored in the outer bay of D'Urban, and on Monday gallantly floated over the bar. A large concourse of persons, including a numerous cavalcade of ladies and gentlemen, had assembled to welcome the entrance of the first steamer into Port Natal, and as she entered the harbour, she was greeted with hearty cheers, which were responded to by those on board. Great, however, was the disappointment when it was announced that she had no regular mail on board. It was, however, not of long duration; for the *Ceres*, which left Table Bay two hours before the *Sir Robert Peel* arrived, came in the following evening, bringing four mails in twenty-one large sacks.' We may assume then, that upon the establishment of a regular mail service, stamps would be prepared at the earliest date, and would be in circulation either in 1852 or 1853.

Yours truly,

E. B.

THE TEN-CENT CONFEDERATE STAMP.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—Permit me to call your attention to the fact that there exist two distinct varieties of the 10 c. Confederate (head of Davis). I have now before me two sheets of this stamp, one printed in light, the other in dark blue ink. At the foot of each sheet is the name and address of the engraver. The light-blue sheet bears the imprint, 'Archer, Bank-Note Engravers, Richmond, Va.' The dark-blue sheet 'Keatinge & Ball, Bank-Note Engravers, Columbia, S. C.' The latter were no doubt the more recently printed. They are much coarser impressions; and a number of minute differences lead to the belief that either the plates were touched up, or else

the design was re-engraved. In particular the words CONFEDERATE STATES on the right hand side are larger in the later printed. The ground of fine lines behind the portrait which is very clear in the Richmond-printed, is quite indistinct in those worked off by Messrs. Keatinge & Ball. Also, owing probably to the dampness of the paper used by the latter when pressed, the ink has run, and tinged it in many places. This paper is much thicker than that of the light-blue variety. Both were printed in double sheets; each page containing one hundred.

Yours respectfully,

OVERY TAYLOR.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

X. Y. Z.—Your *grey* penny Victoria, similar to the green, oval frame without emblems, we can match in our own collection, but have always considered it as what is called a Colombo, alias, spoiled by sea-water.

A. B. C. D. E.—This correspondent informs us that the 19 cuartos, 1862, of Spain, is not an essay, a relation of his having bought one at a Spanish post-office. We thank him for the information, but the doubt implied is a great surprise.

J. M. B.—We have no additional matter explanatory of the stamped sheet of paper described in our last year's magazine for May, page 74.

A. B. L. G., Bath.—We can give no *because* to your *why* are the 6 pfennig vermilion heads of Prussia all struck from the same block, whereas two types were employed for the other colours. Official vagaries are unaccountable. The re-impressions of early series prove the dies not to have been laid aside from superannuation. You will find the fact alluded to in our article on watermarks next month, and also the proper and easy test for distinguishing the originals from the reprints.

HANOVER SQUARE.—Thanks for your information, which we embody in our article on novelties.

A STAMP COLLECTOR, Leamington.—The decease of the king of the Belgians can have no effect on the prices of the postage stamps, whatever it may on the portrait.—The stamp presented with the January number of this year's magazine is the centavo (facial value one half-penny) of the country known under the aliases of New Granada, the Granadine Confederation, and the United States of Columbia. In geographies it used also to be styled Columbia, or Terra Firma.

E. C., Hyde.—The Newfoundland you describe, for which we offer thanks, and two other novelties from the same *habitat*, will be found noticed in their proper place.

H. M.—By error it was stated in our last that the Bergedorf stamp was presented with the October instead of the November magazine.

G. D. W.—The pale-rose 2 annas of India is common enough. The stamp we alluded to, first as genuine, then as fictitious, was a decided rose-lilac. Your yellow 2 annas must be a bad specimen: our own, which is unused, is quite as distinctly engraved as any of the Indians.

Mrs. H., Bath.—We do not recollect ever seeing any unused German stamps ungunned. After having been affixed to letters, it would of course be impossible to identify such. We believe the improvement to have been adopted so early in England as to be prior to the introduction of any foreign emission. In fact we can particularize some of the Sandwich Islands stamps, proofs and essays excepted, as perhaps the only unadhesives issued.

OXONIAN.—Your remarks respecting the fabrication of the current Nova Scotia stamps, as being by the American Bank-Note Company, verify our own note appended to Mr. Hunter's letter, page 191 of the last volume. We were positive in our mind of the fact, but did not like to trust our memory too far in contradiction to an American correspondent.—The uncoloured series of Turkish were and are employed in places devoid of regular post-offices, and must be affixed by proper officials in presence of the parties who forward their letters, on receiving a money payment.

U. V. W.—We cannot find the Tuscan 'Bollo straordinario' described last month, noted in the second edition of Bellars & Davie. You must have mistaken some other stamp for it.

TRAVELLER, Florence.—To get at the current values of stamps you must procure and compare dealers' priced catalogues. Your Tuscans, being proofs, were of necessity unobliterated. Such specimens generally stand at a fancy price. The blue Naples and pale-blue 1 real 1854 Spanish, if *genuine*, were not dear; but the yellow Tuscan lion obliterated was sixteen times the price it is worth. We have purchased unused specimens in Italy at little more than the price at which we estimate yours. *Saggio* signifies *specimen*.—For reply to the latter portion of your communication, we refer you to our first remark.

C. H. M.—The green, scarlet, and amaranth Britannia, of the Mauritius, values unnoted, have given rise to much dispute among the best authorities.

'Who shall decide when doctors disagree?'

M. Herpin assigns *sixpence* as the *normal* worth of the *green*, sometimes hand-stamped *fourpence*. M. Moens pronounces the latter its only value. The *scarlet* is equivalent to a *penny* according to the former, and a *shilling* with the latter philatelist; who pronounces the *amaranth* worth *ninepence*, not a *shilling*, at which the Parisian collector estimates it. This latter label has been found hand-stamped *eightpence*. By way of enlightening this sweet confusion we may add that Mr. Pearson Hill, once post-master of the Mauritius, is said to have announced *sixpence* as the value of the *scarlet*! A red-brown *sixpence*, and a lilac-grey *ninepenny* are also noted. The green, blue, red, and black similar stamps of Barbados, are worth one halfpenny, penny, *sixpence*, and *shilling*, respectively. We also quoted a grey two-penny in a recent number. The current fourpenny stamp is *brick-red*, superseding one of a *rose* colour.—There is a slight discrepancy of opinion respecting the Trinidads; but the reds, violets, blues (or greys), and black are usually valued as penny, fourpence, *sixpence*, and *shilling*.

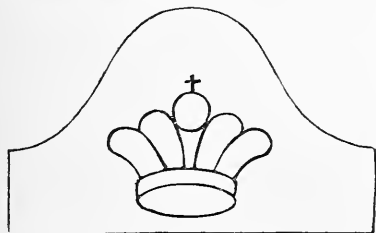
DOUBTFUL, Rugby.—This correspondent describes and desires information respecting a stamp with the following characters:—'Plain shield, branch on each side, cross surrounded with glory in a square border above; 25 cents; right and left; FRANCO above; G. TICINO below. The whole in relief on lilac paper.' If genuine, it must be congenerical with the Kaltbad, again alluded to this month.

N. KWIREK.—We are favoured by this gentleman with a trio of stamps, taken from the same letter, which has VICTORIA on the central, MELBOURNE and date post-marked on the outsiders. Also, with a pair of N. S. Wales blues similarly handstamped N. S. W. on one, SYDNEY and date on the other. He thinks, and we believe rightly, it is a peculiarity common to the Australian colonies; the words he uses imply that the name of the town signifies the one where the letter is *received*. In this case some of the stamps would arrive unobliterated, and postmarked previous to delivery.

POSTAGE-STAMP PAPER & WATER-MARKS.

(Continued from page 18).

DENMARK.—All the stamps of this country since 1851, when the first emission took place, bear the crown here represented as a watermark. It is repeated [but very much less distinctly] in the stamps of the current series, as well as in the two varieties of the Island of St. Thomas. The 4 skilling envelope, started in 1865, shows on its flap the watermark figured below.



NETHERLANDS.—The first series of stamps are watermarked with a post-horn, suspended by a strap. They were in use from 1852 till 1863. The new set, as well as the single Dutch-Indian stamp, has no watermark.



LUXEMBOURG.—The 10 centimes and 1 silbergroschen of the first series, 1852—1859, show a W, a trifle more than half-an-inch long. It is the initial letter of Wilhelm III., King of the Netherlands, and Grand Duke of Luxembourg. The paper of these stamps is not pure white like the present issue, which moreover shows no watermark.



BELGIUM.—The 10 and 20 centimes of the first series, portrait in rectangle, used in 1849 and 1850, bear as watermark two L's interlaced, forming the cipher of the late King Leopold. The same is to be seen in the 10 c., 20 c., and 40 c. of the second series, emitted in 1850. We are not aware of the epoch when this watermark ceased to be

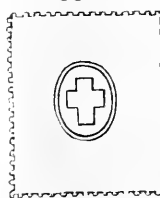


employed. We may say that the one centime of 1861, and the other three lately used, whether perforated or not, no longer contain this watermark.

FRANCE.—The paper of the French stamps is simply tinted with the colour of the stamp, and has never had any watermark. Those of the colonies are fabricated on the same plan. Some essays containing a thread are found in collections.

SWISS CONFEDERATION.—The cantonal stamps present nothing interesting for mention. As for the Federal stamps, the 5 and 10 rappen of the first series, 1849 to 1854,

are found uniformly coloured on the face of the stamp, the back remaining white. This is also the case with some essays of this series. The stamps of the second set, 1854 to 1862, having the full-face figure of Helvetia, all have a coloured thread running through the paper. Those of the third, Helvetia in profile, are watermarked with a representation of the federal cross enclosed in an oval frame. Some of the blue 10 centimes stamps are said to be destitute of this watermark.



PRUSSIA.—The stamps of the 1850—1856 series, printed, some in colour on white paper, as the 4 and 6 pfennige, and some in black on coloured paper, as the 1, 2, and 3 silbergroschen, all show a laurel crown as watermark. This circumstance distinguishes the originals from the reprints of 1864. This watermark is not found in the succeeding sets, which prevents the earlier 4 and 6 pf. from being confounded with the same values in the third series, printed from the same plate. Another distinction is a variation in the colour.



All the envelopes of the first emission, without inscription, have two threads running through the stamp. The re-impressions of 1864 are devoid of these. No Prussian stamp has at present either thread or watermark.

We shall rapidly pass over the stamps of OLDENBURG whose first two series are on

coloured paper, but have no watermark, as well as those of the two MECKLENBURGS and LÜBECK, which present no peculiarities appertaining to the subject of our paper. Neither do the BERGEDÖRFES, the stamps of which place are, like the first three of Bremen, printed on coloured paper.



HAMBURG.—The watermark of the Hamburg stamps consists of a serpentine line, two curves of which are usually seen in each specimen.

SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.—The 1850 emissions of this country are traversed by a thread [of the same colour as the stamps]. Those of 1864 are only distinguishable by the variations in the design.

HANOVER.—The stamps of the first series, 1850 to 1855, except the 1 gutengroschen blue, all bear an oak-leaf crown as watermark. Moreover, with the exception of the 3 pfennige, they are impressed on coloured paper. The presence of this crown distinguishes the 3 pfennige lilac-rose of the first set from



that of the third series, struck from the same plate on unwatermarked paper. The colour is also a purer rose. The other Hanoverians are distinguished by the perfection and completeness of design, rendering useless the employment of watermarks for the prevention of counterfeits.

BRUNSWICK.—On the impressions of this country, except the three composing the first set in 1852, printed in colour on white, is found a large post-horn watermark. All the succeeding, since 1854, on coloured paper, contain the same, which is also repeated on



the 1 and 3 silbergroschen, subsequently issued in colour on white paper. [Those now current, like their congeners of Prussia, Lübeck, Oldenburg, &c., are not watermarked.]

SAXONY, BADEN, and the office of THURN & TAXIS for some of the German States, offer nothing worth mention but coloured paper,

used for some of the earliest emissions or for *chiffre-taxe* [land-post].

BAVARIA.—The first series, cipher in square frame, has no thread embedded in the paper of the earliest issues. Afterwards, the threaded paper prepared for the second series was made use of.

In the second and third series, which differ solely in interchange of colours, in consequence of the postal convention establishing uniformity of colour throughout Germany for equivalent values, is found a vertical red thread, which, on the contrary, runs transversely at the back of the *chiffre-taxe* [post-tax]. All the so-called interpostal impressions of these two series are printed in black on coloured paper like that of equivalent value in the same series, but without any inserted thread. This thread is also wanting in all the paper essays we possess. Some very curious essays have been printed on ivory cardboard, and their appearance in relief adds singularly to their worth and interest; we are speaking of *old* essays.

WÜRTENBERG.—The stamps of the first or cipher series were printed on coloured paper, varying in each value. The tint of the paper, as well as a particular position of the letters, well known to amateurs, distinguishes the originals from the recent re-impressions.

In the second, or armorial series, a red transverse thread is found on the backs of the earliest issues, which are not all perforated. This fact is not noted by M. Rondot in the *Magasin Pittoresque*. The employment of this threaded paper took place during the year 1857, 1858, and, perhaps, 1859, as testified by the obliterating mark; but it is not seen on similar stamps unperforated in use in 1860. It is more naturally absent in the perforated stamps of that series, emitted in 1862, and in the series more recently issued, in conformity with the above-mentioned postal convention. The threaded stamps are sensibly different in tint from the others. The colours are paler, and the variations of shade are sometimes easily followed. In the 1 krenzer, for instance, the primitive pale fawn colour passes, by insensible gradations, into the dark-brown perforated current individual. Although less noticeable, this

difference is not less evident in the other values.

AUSTRIA.—The stamps of this empire and its Italian possessions have always been printed on a strong, rather yellowish paper. No watermark.

DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.—The first series of Moldavia, arms in a circle, is printed on coloured paper without watermark. The second series, arms in a rectangle, is on tissue paper. This same paper served for the stamps bearing the united arms of the two principalities. The emissions of 1863 and 1864 were printed (not hand-stamped) on fine paper. The new series has the prince's portrait on common unwatermarked paper.

TURKEY.—The stamps and *chiffres-taxe* of the first series in 1863 were printed on coloured tissue paper. A second emission in 1864 was on thicker paper, and in the case of the 20 paras and 1 piastre stamps, was tinted on the impressed side only [our own 20 paras is coloured throughout]. The stamps of the second series are printed on white paper and are devoid of watermark. [Those of the recently emitted *poste-locale* set are impressed on rather thick paper, and, as well as the preceding, perforated].

(To be continued.)

NOTES ON THE BRITISH STAMPS.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

OUR intention in penning these lines is not to attempt a complete review of the stamps of this country—to accomplish which would require such exclusive knowledge as only gentlemen in official position possess—but merely to string together, as the title implies, a few notes on certain details connected with engraving, &c. The British stamps, though there have been only what Dr. Magnus terms modifications of issue amongst them, and no such rapid and continual changes of type as in Spain, or of colour as in Western Australia, still present many points of interest and of difficulty.

Collectors who, fortunate in the possession of a V. R., have valued it as a *postage* stamp, must have felt some doubt as to its title to be considered such, after reading Mr. Pearson

Hill's account of its origin; from which it appears that it was prepared and intended for use, but never actually placed in circulation. Now this stamp is not an essay in the ordinary acceptance of the word, nor is it exactly a rejected design: on the contrary, the *design* was the accepted one, and the impressions, themselves, gummed and ready for use, only wanted the fiat of the postmaster to constitute them actual stamps, but at the last moment the plan is abandoned, and the V. R. becomes—what? A new word is required to designate exactly the position of this embryo stamp, and of others like it—the 1½d. (so called) *essay* for instance. This also was approved of by the authorities, and, as stated some months since in 'Postal Chit-chat,' thousands were printed off, gummed, and perforated, ready to send out for sale, when 'the bill for the three-halfpenny rate was rejected,' and the sweet 'immaculates' were consigned, with few exceptions, to the flames. The 1 c. Confederate is, it seems to us, in the same anomalous position. Although the manufacture of them was authorised by the Southern government, the loss of the vessel containing the supply prevented their ever being used. So that they were intended, rather than actual, postage stamps.

Mount Brown catalogues English envelope stamps, of the four higher values, impressed on yellow paper, and we have ourselves seen them both on yellow and on rose; but how came it that the P. O. officials permitted these coloured papers to be used in the face of the express rule stated in the *Postal Guide*, that no such paper can be received for stamping? Perhaps the regulation is only a modern one.

Purchasers of Lallier's album may be somewhat puzzled to account for the three spaces for twopenny stamps, marked 7, 8, and 9. These figures appear on the sides of the stamps, and only those three have been placed on the twopenny. The first two have ceased to be used and the figure 9 appears on all the current stamps.

The designs of the five higher values of adhesives have all been more or less altered, so as to admit of the insertion, first of the small, and afterwards of the large letters;

in fact the frame of each has, doubtless, been re-engraved. Taking first the threepenny, we observe that the curved frame is wider, the side ornaments differ, and the figure 4 in a circle has been introduced. Specimen sheets of the old issue of threepenny were printed, having the background filled in with a fine reticulated pattern; but second thoughts were best, this pattern was effaced from the plates; to the great improvement of the stamp.

The three fourpenny stamps differ from each other in the shape of the inscribed labels; the first being square at the ends; the second, curved inwards; the third, rounded off; the pattern of the spandrels varies also in each. In the 'large-letter' stamp, the neck of the queen almost touches the lower label, whilst there is a clear space between in the other two.

The sixpence with small letters differs only from the first issue in the shape of the marginal labels, which were necessarily shortened, and in having the words of value united by a hyphen. The alterations in the latest sixpenny stamp have been heretofore particularized.

The inscription on the new ninepenny stamp is larger than on the old, and circles are added at the corners, respectively, below and above the square frames containing the letters; the upper pair containing stars and the lower pair the figure 4.

In the small-lettered shilling, the principal difference is the addition of the side label with figure, and the shifting of the portrait downwards, so that it all but touches the oval.

The figures introduced into all the current stamps must, at any rate at first, considerably puzzle foreign collectors. They were doubtless added for some wise purpose, but at present we do not perceive what that purpose is.

In his valuable list of dates of issue, Mr. P. Hill does not include that of the twopenny with white lines. Moens gives it as March, 1841. It is rather surprising that so obvious an improvement has not been made in the penny. But perhaps the greatest wonder is that the entire series of British stamps is not superseded by something better. A con-

tinental journal several months since reported, on the authority of its London correspondent, that this would shortly be the case, but there does not appear to have been good foundation for the rumour—would there were.

SKETCHES OF THE LESS-KNOWN STAMP COUNTRIES.

BY DR. C. W. VINER, A.M.

SIERRA LEONE AND ITS STAMPS.

We purpose condensing our remarks respecting this country as much as possible: its turn for notice has come round, but we confess to a great disinclination for lingering on any subject, at this juncture, connected with our 'black brethren.'



Nearly two centuries ago, a French traveller in West Africa found the tract, which is the subject matter of our paper, occupied by the aboriginal Capez and interloping Manez; the former industrious and pacific, but goaded to desperate resistance by the latter, a cruel race of cannibals. This very undesirable state of affairs had continued for upwards of a hundred and fifty years among these unsophisticated innocents, so that we really cannot recognize any very alarming amount of cruelty exercised in transplanting them to the Western Islands, where the former were certainly no worse, but, in all human probability, much better off; and the latter, taking it for granted that the planters and overseers were all *Legrees*, only found themselves equally matched.

Our author's letterpress spells the name *Sierra Leona*, but his map has *Liona*. He gives the received interpretation of its derivation from *mountain* and *lion*; but adds that it was either from the prevalence of that beast in the districts, or the lion-like roaring of the Atlantic waves that washed the coast.

The same writer, but we must remember his nationality, and take the statement with a grain of salt, states that in July, 1704, eleven French ships managed to take the English fort at *Sierra Leone*, the com-

mander, with about a hundred men, not waiting to be attacked! They got plenty of booty, seven thousand elephants' teeth among the rest. The sequel is more consoling to British notions; the fleet after a successful cruise to South America and the West Indies, returning home laden with booty, was captured off Jamaica by some of our men-of-war; Guerin, their commander, killed, and most of the officers lodged in Southampton jail.

Towards the close of the last century, some well-intentioned individuals sent out to the colony 340 American refugee negroes; this was in 1787; in four years, 63 of them were surviving! In '92, the Sierra Leone company exported 119 settlers, some of which were Europeans, next year, 40 of them were surviving! What a desirable *habitat* the place must be! The first year of the present century, a party of 550 Jamaica Maroons were landed there, and for a time appeared to thrive, having increased in 1836 to 681, but five years after, all but forty had bid adieu to the colony. It is to be hoped, however, that the settlement has been productive of some amount of benefit to the poor blacks, for whom it was principally, if not entirely, undertaken, as we find from parliamentary documents, that up to the year 1824, it had already cost us about eight millions sterling!

The coast is peopled by several native tribes; some are Mohammedans, some Pagans, with a sprinkling of nominal Christians. Besides these, in and near the capital, Freetown, there are a few thousands of immigrants from the Kroo country, who are industrious (if well paid), very economical, living on a pound-and-a-half or so of rice per diem, expending about ten shillings a year on a sort of semi-dress, and in two years or less return to their own country with their savings. These they distribute liberally among their relatives, buy a wife, and remain a few months living *en grand seigneur*, then return to work, make more capital, come home as before, buy another wife, and so on for a dozen or more years, adding cash to cash and wife to wife, till they finally retire to the *otium cum dig.* of settled respectability.

The area of the country is estimated at 25,000 square miles: the population in 1851 was about 45,000, the European proportion being one to four hundred and fifty. There is a governor, assisted by a council of seven or more; law, police, and debt courts. A good stone church signalizes almost every village of any importance, and there are about 50 Wesleyan and other dissenting chapels. Grammar, training, or other schools, male and female, belonging to the Establishment and otherwise.

Freetown, the capital, stands fifty feet above sea-level, is adorned with handsome stone buildings forming wide streets, bordered with orange, lime, banana, and cocoa-nut trees. The climate, like that of the whole of the West African coast, is bad, though not, perhaps, so execrable as in some parts. June and the five succeeding months are one long, dismal, foggy and rainy November, broken only at rare intervals by four or five fine days. The temperature is hot, hotter, and hottest; and the best that can be said for its residential advantages is, that, in some seasons and at different years, it is not quite so insalubrious as at others.

The soil is very productive, being a rich vegetable mould requiring little labour. The principal crops are rice, ground nuts, maize, yams, and mandioc. The commonest fruit is the pine-apple; and the cocoa-nut, monkey-bread, banana, orange, guava, pomegranate, lime, papaw, and African plum are indigenous; as are yams, plantains, Indian corn, sweet potatoes, pumpkins, and spinach. Coffee, sugar, indigo, and cotton, are the successful products of British cultivation, with the vine and some other European fruits. Cattle, sheep, goats, &c., are abundant, as well as poultry, bees, and fish. The denizens of the woods are elephants, buffaloes, monkeys, antelopes, leopards, wolves, and chimpanzees,

Having thus, as curtly as possible, disposed of the former part of our title, we proceed to the latter—'and its stamps.' Comparatively few on this side the channel but will stare at the plural form of the noun: a solitary specimen most usually

standing alone in its glory in British albums.

Our Gallic neighbours, nevertheless, with their great nicety of appreciation, acknowledge no fewer than three distinct editions of the exceedingly well engraved and peculiarly designed stamps of Sierra Leone. They are all of the same precise type, and most likely from one original die; the sole distinction, scarcely to be called difference, being that the earlier impressions were taken off on white, and the second on bluish-tinted paper, both of them unperforated; while the third and current issue has been perforated for several years.

The singular design of the frame-work of this stamp is scarcely so evidenced in a single specimen, as when a group of four individuals is seen together, in which case a white star, formed by a pair of angles in each stamp, is noticeable in the centre. We retain such in our own collection, and many continental and other philatelists afford themselves a similar example of eccentric device.

THE STAMPS OF THE SANDWICH ISLES.

THE Hawaiian stamps have always excited a degree of interest, not on account of their beauty, a quality which only one of the number possesses, but because they emanate from a land only three generations since inhabited by ferocious barbarians. Under the 'moral protectorate' of England, the islanders have steadily advanced in the path of civilization, and now possess laws and institutions modelled on those of this country, a constitutional king, and a knowledge of the true faith. The capital of the island can boast of wide streets, bordered by fine houses, and shaded and perfumed by tropical vegetation; of hotels and restaurants fitted up in European style, of a theatre, a concert-hall, and library; and it possesses (to crown all) a journal, one half of which is printed in the language of the island, and the other half in English.

This rapid advance in prosperity results from the fact that Honolulu is the privileged and principal station of the whalers of

all nations. During the six months which constitute the whaling season, the traffic is enormous, and suffices to maintain the entire population in comfort, and even luxury, for the rest of the year.

This rising little kingdom, with its Ministers of Justice, of Home Affairs, of Finance, and so on, has, almost as a matter of course, following in the wake of England, established a postal department and system, and emitted several series of stamps.

In former times, the letters arriving in the island were deposited on a table in one of the quay warehouses, and persons who expected any, went there and searched for those addressed to them, and took them away. On one occasion, however, a newly-married gentleman came to Honolulu, but without his wife, and for many days, attended at the rough substitute for a post-office, in hope of receiving a letter from his absent spouse—but in vain. One day, however, he discovered that another person, bearing the same name, had regularly called for and taken away his letters. To remedy this deplorable state of things, and, in a most praiseworthy spirit, to prevent similar disagreeable occurrences, this gentleman solicited the government for authority to establish a post-office at his own expense. The authority was accordingly granted, and the first post founded in Honolulu. This took place in 1850. Since that time, the postal organisation has been several times modified; and now, so far as relates to the interior, approaches nearly to that of European states.

In 1852, by virtue of a decree made in that year, the first postage stamps were emitted. They consisted of a 2 c., 5 c., and 13 c.—all with figure of value in centre, in a square ornate border, with HAWAIIAN POSTAGE above, and value below; the whole enclosed in a simple linear frame. These stamps are what the French call *typographed*. An illustration of the 13 c. was given in vol. ii., p. 169, and of the 2 cents in our last number. The whole series has been but recently discovered. First the 13 c. came to light; then the 2 c.; and, a month or two since, the correspondent of a French journal gave information of the existence

of the 5 c. There is no reason to doubt the genuineness of these stamps, though, like other rare issues, their very existence has been denied by residents in the island. Such a denial is valueless, however, when it is borne in mind that the stamps in question were the emissions of a new and then little-known department, and that they remained but a short time in circulation. Very few specimens are known; and these few have all a genuine and ancient appearance. A variety of the 13 c. has been described in one of our Parisian contemporaries, bearing the inscription H.I. AND U.S. POSTAGE, but, in all other points, identical with the known stamp of that value. Of this series, the 5 c. became obsolete in the year in which it was issued, and the 13 c. in the following year, but we know not when the currency of the 2 c. ceased.

The 5 c. was suppressed on the appearance of the blue stamp of the same value, bearing the effigy of Kamehameha III., and which was intended for inland postage. It was printed on blue-tinted and on white paper. Genuine impressions on white are extremely scarce; but forgeries are far from uncommon. It has been hitherto supposed that this stamp was issued in or about 1860, but independently of the direct evidence as to the date of emission, the mere fact that it bore the portrait of a king who died in 1854, is *prima facie* proof that it appeared during his life.

The same design was used for the 13 c. red, emitted in 1853, and which bore the inscription HONOLULU 5 CTS. to right, and UNITED STATES 8 CTS. to left. It was used, as the inscription implies, to prepay the postage of letters from the Hawaiian Islands to the United States—5 cents covered the cost of transit to the American coast, and the other 8 cents that of the transmission to the eastern states. But the modifications subsequently introduced into the U. S. postal department, which were not contemplated when this stamp was created, rendered it useless. It was suppressed in 1863, and is now very rare.

In July, 1859, it was decreed that letters and journals arriving in the Sandwich Islands from foreign parts should, on their

arrival, have an additional stamp placed on them; its amount to be paid, we presume, on delivery; journals to have a 1 cent, and letters a 2 cent stamp affixed to them. To carry out these provisions, the well-known stamps with figure in centre were issued. They bore the inscription HAWAIIAN POSTAGE to left, INTER ISLAND above, and UKU LETA (paid letter) to right. The first series was issued in July, 1859, and was printed on blue paper:

1 cent, pale-blue

2 " black.

In July, 1863, there was a second issue on blue paper, as follows:—

1 cent, black.

2 " pale-blue.

2 " dark-blue.

In April, 1864, these values were re-issued in black ink on white paper, and in 1865, in the same ink, on cream-laid paper. The last named are stated to be reprints, and such they most probably are, as in the same year, and, for aught we know, at the same time, there appeared another pair of stamps of the above values resembling in the main their predecessors, but with the inscription differently placed. In these INTERISLAND is on the left, HAWAIIAN POSTAGE to right, UKU LETA above, and value below. The impression is dark-blue on white paper.

These stamps and the four preceding emissions were composed with printer's types. The sheets on which they were printed are ordinary note-paper size, with the maker's name in the corner. Ten stamps were set up at a time, and four impressions taken from these ten on a sheet, each sheet therefore contained forty stamps in all. Two sets of ten were impressed on one side of a sheet, which was then reversed to receive the remainder, so that looking at it one half the number always seems printed up side down. The sheets are carelessly printed, at any rate those of the present emission, the impressions sometimes over-lapping and mingling with each other.

In 1862 the 2 cents rose on white, was issued, bearing a portrait of king Kamehameha IV. in centre, UKU LETA in arched label above, with figure 2 in the upper corners, value in words in lower margin, and a

foliated border at each side. The colour in which this stamp was first issued was pale-rose, but in 1863 it was printed in carmine. The design, by no means remarkable for its beauty, was coarsely engraved; and that it did not satisfy the authorities is evident from the fact that the American Bank Note Company was commissioned to prepare a better stamp of the same value. This, however, was not forthcoming until the king whose portrait it bears was dead. The 2 cents bright-red, with the effigy of Kamehameha IV. in an oval, HAWAII and figure 2 above, and ELUA KENETA below, arrived in the Sandwich Islands in January, 1864; the fourth Kamehameha died in November 1863. The stamp, which was not issued till the following May, has therefore received the title of *posthumous*.

The supply of the 5 cents, bearing the portrait of Kamehameha III., was exhausted in 1865, and was replaced provisionally by a stamp with figure in centre, resembling in its appearance and the manner of its production the others of the same type. It is impressed in blue on blue paper, fifty stamps forming a sheet. This stamp is adhesive, and, in this respect, unlike any of its congeners. The omission of the gum from them appears, however, to have arisen from simple negligence, and is stated to have suggested to the islanders the ingenious device of using *treacle* in its place.

And now a word about the obliterations. They are of different shapes; sometimes made with a pen, and sometimes with a hand-stamp. Two strokes of the pen, and such inscriptions as the following frequently occur, namely: HILLO, KAN, P. O., MITCALF PLANTN. POST OFFICE, &c. The offices using this method of cancelling were, we suppose, not possessed of the proper defacing stamps. All stamps not pen-stroked are obliterated by one of three postmarks. 1. A small transverse oval bearing in the centre the word PAID. 2. Seven parallel lines forming a lozenge. 3. Similar to the 2nd, but with ten lines. The first two are impressed in black, the third in red.

We must, in conclusion, add that, for many of the above details, we are indebted to an able article in *Le Timbreposte*.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

WE cannot expect often to be the chronicler of so large a proportion of novel emissions and issues as was presented to our readers last month. There was, in fact, such a plethora that we began to imagine that our usual paper, under the above heading could not be forthcoming. Our forebodings, nevertheless, are not realized, and we can offer a tolerable array of worthy candidates for philatelic honours, under the several categories of government and private issues, essays, and resuscitations. Our sable brethren—why not?—Cain was Abel's brother as well as murderer—legally claim the foremost rank, introducing a postal issue for the hitherto unrepresented island known formerly as Hispaniola, or St. Domingo, but at present as the republic of

HAITI.—The stamp is square; a shield bearing the arms of the republic is in the centre, the position of which is quite unique, being sideways. Over this is CORREOS, and beneath UN REAL. It is possible the shield may be intended to be posed upright; in this case the inscriptions are on either side; but even then there is something unusual about the stamp, the value reading in an inverse position. It is printed in black ink, and there is an undulating line on each side, intended, perhaps, to show where the perforation will be. We have seen but one denomination; there are, or will be, probably, others.

ABYSSINIA.—A continental contemporary has been informed that it is contemplated by the government of the country of Prester John to organise a regular postal service, and emit postage stamps like other civilized nations.

We may live in hopes of Ashantee, Madagascar, and Patagonia claiming a page in the next edition of Oppen's album.

TURKEY.—A specimen of the 20 paras, of the type described in our last month's number, is here figured.



NEWFOUNDLAND.—Our first cut represents the highest value of the new issue for that country, replacing the disused shilling. The portrait of Her Majesty will be readily recognised as a fac-simile of that on the unrivalled Nova Scotia stamps, proving their coming from the

atelier of the American

Bank Note Company. The difference in framework, and other belongings, will be noticed on comparison of our cut with a green, scarlet, or black Nova Scotia. We still think the latter bear the palm, and being the *ne plus ultra* of stamps, could not be improved upon. The Newfoundland, though a very handsome stamp, seems a trifle overloaded with decoration, and we should imagine it rather too large for convenience on an ordinary-sized letter. The colour is blue, and we cannot trace any watermark. The colony in question appears to have



adopted the New Brunswick *façon de faire* by having a distinct device for every denomination. In the specimen here represented, which was described, and it seems

erroneously, from hearsay last month, a seal, not a beaver, figures conspicuously. The colour is very dingy brown. Our next illustration is that of the 2 cents green. The design is truly a novel one; but very appropriate for the stamp of a colony from whence comes such large supplies of lenten fare. It was slightly noticed



in our last, and is unlike any stamp yet produced. The fish is swimming to the left, in a transverse oval, encompassed by frame of similar shape, interrupted at each angle of the label by a circle containing cipher of value; the upper compartment has NEWFOUNDLAND, the lower TWO CENTS, and the word

two is repeated on each side. This individual, the seal, and the vessel, are all of like size and shape. The next of the new series which we have before us, is square, bearing the identical profile of our Queen which has been so much admired on the three lower values of the Nova Scotias. This is

enclosed in an oval frame, inscribed NEWFOUNDLAND, TWELVE CENTS. Like the 24 cents described above, this is no improvement on its prototype, and the colour, a dingy red-brown, does not tend to show it to advantage. We now come to the gem of the set, the 10 cents black—an upright rectangle, not quite so large as the 24 cents. A very good portrait of the prince of Wales occupies a frame rounded above. The sides are chastely ornamental; an upper scroll has NEWFOUNDLAND, and a lower contains the value. These six are all we have yet seen. It will be remarked that the twopenny, fourpenny, and eightpenny are yet unrepresented; taking the seal to supersede the well-known triangle. We should fancy the first, and perhaps the second, would not want substitutes, but think the eightpenny could never have been in request, from the circumstance that it was never changed in colour like the others, giving rise to the natural supposition that all the first impressions are even yet unexhausted.

BRITISH HONDURAS.—Some time back we duly chronicled an emission for the republic; but have now the pleasure of introducing a trio, established for regular postal communication between the parent country and the Honduras colonists. The engraving needs little supplementary notice. Our Queen's profile is unlike any other we remember, except, perhaps, that on the five-shilling stamp of New South



Wales, having been apparently copied from her portrait on the florin, which it resembles in reproducing the imperial crown, though the arrangement of the hair slightly differs. The set, we understand, consists of three individuals: one shilling dark-green, sixpence carmine, and one penny blue. The stamps are perforated; impression coloured on white; paper unwatermarked.

VENEZUELA.—A new emission of this country tends to diversify the page devoted to it. This time the stamp is square; but the perforatory improvement has not yet met the approval of the Venezuelan postal officials. There are three values, differing in colour and monetary part of the inscription only: the device being alike in all three. The arms of the republic in a central octagon, encompassed by octagonal band containing legend, which is a new adoption, running CORREO DE LOS E. E. U. U. DE VENEZ., and the value. We conclude the double capitals denote the plural standing for *estados unidos*. The triangular spandrels are filled in with ornamentation. The impression is colour on white, no watermark: $\frac{1}{2}$ real rose; 1 real red; and 2 reales yellow.

FINLAND.—A new set has just been issued for this Russian dependency. The impressions, four in number, are nearly identical with those lately superseded. They are printed in black on colour, on thin tinted paper, having no watermark, and presenting the peculiarly large dentelations so conspicuous in their predecessors. There are now four values, and most probably the same are, or will be repeated in envelopes. In the two higher denominations the perpendicular wavy lines are not so close as in the others, but in the old ones, in other respects, inscriptive value excepted, no change has been made. They bear respectively 5, 10, 20, and 40 PEN above, and the same numerals with PEH in Russian characters below. The colours are pale-mauve, buff, blue, and rose tinted paper; with violet-brown, black, darker blue, and carmine impressions.

LEVANT.—So long since as May, 1865, a notice of a stamp supposed to be emitted by

a private Russian company, for Levantine postage, was described, and three months later a second of the same character figured in a Parisian journal. We understand they are genuine, and in actual circulation. One of them was represented on p. 136 of our last year's volume, but for the benefit of those who may not possess it, we give the follow description: upright rectangular, rather thin paper unwatermarked, lithographed impression, red on a latticed blue background; encompassed by elaborate ornamentation, a steamer appears in the centre, Russian eagle below, and the characters P. O. H. N. T. above. The value, we are informed, is 1 piastre. Its companion, worth five times as much, is blue on red lattice work: P., the eagle, and O. above, H. N. T. below.

SCOTCH LOCAL.—In addition to the one-farthing stamp figured last month, and first noticed in the January number, and the yellow twopenny also mentioned, a correspondent informs us that there exists, moreover, a threepenny red individual; the latter, except in colour and inscribed value, being identical with the twopenny. He states, also—and our readers have this month ocular evidence of the fact given them in the centre of the magazine—that the first-noticed stamp is printed in mauve as well as green. Another correspondent favours us with an Edinburgh local of which the description is subjoined. Nearly square, unperforated, blue impression on white paper. Inscription CLARK & CO., CIRCULAR AND PARCEL DELIVERERS, 10, CALTON STREET, EDINBURGH, on a background composed of double lines, forming a transverse diamond lattice work.

VICTORIA.—Our next cut represents the greenish specimen, value tenpence; a description of which opened our paper on novelties last month. Philatelists anxiously await every mail in expectation of a respectable sixpenny to make up the otherwise really comely current Victorian series.

BAVARIA.—The new emission for this country, proposed for public issue on the 1st of May next, is no unworthy representative



of artistic taste and skill from the *art-city*, supposing it to emanate, as we believe is the case, from a Munich engraver. The royal arms occupy the centre, above which is BAYERN, and below the word KREUZER. Figure of value in each corner, and remaining space elegantly, but not too closely filled in with ornamentation. The impression being in relief, adds materially to the beauty of the stamp. We have just had the pleasure of seeing some proofs and essays of this beautiful stamp from Dr. De Volpi's magnificent collection, which has now passed into English possession, and should judge that a set of these forthcoming Bavarians will be welcome additions to philatelists' albums.



EGYPT.—This engraving will rescue from oblivion one of the several rejected essays for that country. It would be difficult to judge by a simple comparison of the cut with the admitted stamp, whether the latter were worthy the palm of victory. By comparing the two *representations*, we think the one before us decidedly the superior, but they both possess one common defect, that the uninitiated would find themselves puzzled to place them right side up.

PRUSSIA.—In the superb assemblage of rarities above named, amongst others too numerous to recapitulate, we noted proofs of the 10 and 30 silbergroschen Prussian stamps, for foreign or heavy home postage. They answer thoroughly to Horace's definition of elegance, '*simplex munditiis*,' being merely large numerals of value on a patterned background; but so chastely designed and clearly executed as to be perfect consummations of elegance.

HOLLAND.—We have just been favoured with a series of essays in fifteen different colours and two values, proposed for adoption to the Dutch government. They are executed by a peculiar process, and have a pleasing effect. We purpose affording a more detailed notice of them in a future number.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—A correspondent forwards us a stamp of this colony, either

from some defect in the plate, or other accidental circumstance, misprinted like those German and Italian specimens, which vary the albums of the curious. It is a sixpenny laurelled series on blue paper, inscription reading WALLS instead of Wales.

PORTUGAL.—Another correspondent sends a specimen of 25 reis blue, hair not parted, the network in the background of which is much more simple than in any we have ever remarked before. The pattern is uniformly similar in our blue Donna Maria and Don Pedro, whether with hair parted or otherwise.

NEW ZEALAND.—Some fourpenny stamps of this country have made their appearance lately *yellow* in place of *rose*, which latter colour they have probably superseded.

LITHOGRAPHED SPANISH STAMPS.

THE researches of amateurs in the present day result every now and then in, what we may term, the exhumation of long-buried and previously-unknown varieties. One of the recent discoveries is that of lithographed Spanish stamps, announced by Dr. Magnus in *Le Timbrophile*, from which we take the following account.

The first series belonged to the *official* type of 1855, of which an illustration is appended.



The ordinary kind is *engraved*, but for some reason which it is impossible to determine, a certain number were lithographed. All that are known are obliterated, and the obliterations consist of—1, parallel bars in the form of a gridiron; 2, a hand-stamp bearing the date and the words STA. CRUZ, indicating the place where it was affixed; 3, an oval divided into four parts by two diagonal lines, with a large spot in the centre; and, 4, an oval divided by lines into lozenges, with stars at the intersections, a mode of obliteration supposed, but incorrectly, to be peculiar to Porto Rico; it being only found on the stamps specially for Luzon and the mother country.

The paper is of almost the same colour as the well-known stamps of 1855, and

the values are the same, $\frac{1}{2}$ onza, yellow; 1 onza, rose; 4 onzas, green; and 1 libra, blue.

The design is distinguished by its coarseness. The exterior oval is irregular and broken; the pearls of the crown are smaller. The collar of the order of the Golden Fleece is less distinct. The oval surrounding the shield is formed of small lines irregularly traced, and the horizontal line running across the shield is lop-sided. The heraldic emblems are very roughly drawn, and the fleurs-de-lys in the centre are hardly visible.

The inscription also offers some distinctive characteristics: the words *CORREO OFICIAL* are traced in an uneven line instead of being placed so as to follow gracefully the shape of the exterior oval, and the word *ONZA* or *LIBRA* almost touches the oval. The whole indicates a rough imitation of the home stamps.

These stamps being purely administrative and without monetary value, there was no reason for their being counterfeited. It is far more sensible to suppose that they were made in one of the colonies, and placed in circulation at a time when the supply of the metropolitan stamps was exhausted.

As to which of the colonies emitted these stamps we are almost if not completely ignorant. The two which are obliterated with the words *STA. CRUZ.*, the name of the chief town in the island of Tenerife, and residence of the governor of the Canary Isles, bear that evidence on their face that they were used in this Spanish possession; but what shall we say of the others?

The stamp of the second type, of which we have now to speak, is of the value of 4 cuartos, and belongs to the series current from 1855 to 1860, and to the impression of 1855, which was upon the paper bearing a watermark of loops. It presents the general appearance of the stamps of 1855 (type subjoined), and is on blue paper, but upon a careful examination, it offers two great and very important differences—1, the paper is with-



out the usual loop watermark; 2, the stamp is lithographed: and there are several other variations of less importance in the design. Although the head of the queen shows very great similitude to that on the ordinary stamps, the border differs in many respects. The pearls around the central circle are irregular in form and situation; the square frame is confused and uneven, the florets at the sides are very large and distant from each other; and the letters of the inscription are also large and very coarsely traced.

Two specimens of this variety exist, one postmarked with parallel lines, the other with the obliteration before noticed as erroneously supposed to belong to Porto Rico. Both were red-brown, though each differed in shade from the other, and some petty differences exist between the design in each. They were discovered amongst thousands of ordinary 4 c. stamps, and the source from whence they were obtained (their pedigree, so to speak, is given by Dr. Magnus), are evidence of their genuineness.

The French theory as to the cause of their creation is, that an accident happening to the plate of the 4 c., necessitated recourse to lithography, until the completion of a new plate permitted of a return to the usual impressions; and as to the blue paper of the lithographed stamps not being watermarked, this objection is met by reference to an existing non-watermarked specimen of the ordinary 4 cuartos upon rough paper, quite distinct from that used for the 1856 impressions, as proof that the '55 stamps were not invariably printed on the usual paper.

We have not ourselves come across any of these extraordinary stamps, but some of our readers may perchance, on re-examination of their Spanish page, find themselves rewarded by the discovery of a lithographed impression.

THE HIGHEST INHABITED SPOT ON THE GLOBE is the post-house of Ancomarco in Peru, nearly 16,000 feet (upwards of three miles) above the level of the sea.

THE UNITED STATES POSTMASTER-GENERAL DENNISON asks for the passage of a law authorizing him to sell stamps on credit. The object of the bill is that the Southern people may be able to supply themselves.—*Cincinnati Gazette.*

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Postage-Stamp Album and Catalogue of British and Foreign Postage Stamps, with a full Description of the Arms of each Country; revised, corrected, and brought up to the present time by Dr. Viner (forming the eighth Edition of Oppen's Album and Catalogue). London: William Stevens.

WE have already had the pleasure of reviewing several editions of this useful and well-appointed work, and, trusting in process of time to notice as many more, congratulate both publisher and public on its eighth appearance before the philatelic world.

Unable, for obvious reasons, to pen what might pass for a strictly impartial criticism, we cannot do better than quote from the present editor's preface, making a few remarks thereon for the object of ascertaining whether the proposed improvements are carried out.

It is advanced that a primary object being to gain space for the sundry novelties issued since the earlier editions, this has been done in several ways. By omitting the descriptions of stamps in the Album portion of the work, which were insufficient without and superfluous in conjunction with the Catalogue, room has been obtained for four additional specimens in almost every country. Again, by mulcting such places as Costa Rica, Nicaragua, the Ionian Islands, Antigua, &c., of their unnecessary amount of compartments a similar advantage is derived. All descriptions of forgeries are omitted, but few essays noticed, and lastly, forty pages are added to the book.

We submit that such an improvement was requisite, and that the bestowal of the vacancies accruing, to use the compiler's own words, on such countries as Spain, British Guiana, New Granada, &c., which were previously insufficiently provided, and in the several places that have started stamps since former editions, as Mecklenburg-Strelitz, the Bermudas, &c., and on the American private posts, for which no provision had been before made, is a decided advantage.

Besides the countries mentioned above as having received additional spaces, without noting a great number, as Brunswick, Denmark, and, in fact, almost every name, that enjoy the four additional compartments alluded to above, Baden, Bremen, the Danubian Principalities, Hanover, Luxembourg, Saxony, Turkey, Ceylon, the Mauritius, Monte Video, and Victoria have each received one, and Great Britain, Switzerland, and Thurn and Taxis, two extra pages. Six are given for the American special posts, and a sheet at the end of Europe and another after Western Australia can be devoted to any further issues.

Great confusion of arrangement had been hitherto unavoidable in consequence of there being no place for the French and Spanish colonials, and the emissions of Finland and other dependencies, except in a general jumble with those of the parent country. This is henceforth rectified; independent headings and compartments in due geographical order being assigned to Cuba, the Philippines, Java, Martinique, Réunion, New Caledonia, Finland, Poland, and Venetia. The Two Sicilies are ignored, their issues figuring under Naples and Sicily respectively. Livonia and Schleswig-Holstein stand on their own ground, the latter now numbering two-and-twenty representatives. In addition to the Bermudas and Mecklenburg-Strelitz before mentioned, Persia, Honduras, and the Ecuador make their début in postage-stamp albums.

Dr. Viner states his reasons for omitting all forgeries and most essays, reserving notice of a few of the latter only, particularizing Paraguay, and in this instance his provisions seem to be verified, as probably soon requiring a page for actual government emissions. He professes to have thoroughly revised the work, corrected many inaccuracies in colour and description, discarded some impostors, and made some other slight improvements. The verification of this must be left to the judgment of subscribers.

He has failed, however, in fulfilling one rash engagement, for which he must be content with the salvo of its having been totally unavoidable.

'Whoe'er expects a faultless work to see,
Expects what never was, nor is, nor is to be.'

The production was announced as complete 'to the present time.' All the sophistry of the Della Crusca or French Academicians would fail in fixing the line of demarcation between past and present, and unfortunately the stamp emissions were more fast and furious than usual at the epoch of publication, so that it was impracticable to keep pace with them. This must be ample apology for the absence of the Spanish, Egyptian, British Honduras, Newfoundland, Shanghai, and St. Domingo novelties. The compiler, nevertheless, may congratulate himself upon the *Catalogue* being the completest and most accurate list of postage stamps published at home or abroad, including all individuals in course of issue towards the close of the year 1865.

Should a collector require still more space for specimens than is allotted, ruled sheets to accord with those forming the album can be obtained at the publisher's office; and we believe that gentleman has the idea of preparing a few additional pages duly headed and appropriated for those countries above noticed as having issued stamps during the printing and since the appearance of the work.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

WHY THE 25 C. FRENCH EMPIRE IS RARE.—The 25 c. Empire has always been much rarer than the other members of the Imperial issue for this reason:—the 25 c. Presidency, which was emitted on the 12th August, 1852, continued to be used on letters until so late as June, 1854. The 25 c. Empire made its appearance on the 3rd November, 1853, before the supply of its predecessor was exhausted; and as the postal reform, reducing the rate of prepayment to 20 c., came into operation in July, 1854, this stamp had but a few days' actual currency.

THE ARMS OF MADRID.—Most people are aware that the Madrid arms—a bear and tree—figure on the 1 and 3 cuartos stamps of that city, but few probably know the origin of this device. *Le Moniteur du Soir* tells the following tale—which if not true, is very likely—to account for its adoption by the Spanish metropolis. 'Once upon a time,' when the site of Madrid was occupied only by a few peasants' cottages, a young girl, resident in one of them, left her home to go and pluck *madronos*. On approaching the tree she was about to despoil, she observed a huge bear seated in its branches, and in the act of munching the fruit. Horror-stricken, the girl hastily retreated; but on telling her mother what she had seen, received in reply a blow from her

distaff. 'Indeed, *Madre* (mother), if you do not believe, go into the orchard and see, and you will soon believe I am speaking the truth.' Nothing loth, the mother went; the bear saw and seized her; and the justice of heaven was accomplished by her destruction. In memory of the fact, the government of the day conferred on the infant community the name of *Madre-id* (corrupted in course of time into Madrid), and permission to take for its arms the bear in tree.—*Le Timbrophile*.

EVERY POSTMASTER IN FRANCE has to report to the *commissaire de police* the names of the journals which pass through his office and of the persons to whom they are addressed. This report is transmitted at frequent intervals to the prefect, who is thus kept *au courant* of the political tastes and tendencies of his *administratives*. Among other considerations suggested by this little incident is the paucity of readers which such an arrangement implies. Just imagine an English postmaster writing his daily list, or a Mayor or justice of the peace or other functionary studying the returns from every village.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

THE GARIBALDI STAMP.—About a twelvemonth since, an attempt was made to impose on continental amateurs a stamp entitled a Garibaldian essay. *Le Timbreposte* states that it was prepared in 1848, whilst the general was in Rome. It bore a full-face portrait of him in an oval, the border of which bore the inscription, ROMA above, VENEZIA below, and a sabre on each side. The left side of the frame was inscribed IL GRANDE GENEROSO, the right GLORIOSO GENERALE, the top GIUSEPPE, and the bottom GARIBALDI. This remarkable stamp, of which only two or three specimens were said to exist, was lithographed, and to crown all dentated. Collectors, however, who had been duped by Bavarian essays on porcelain paper could not swallow this latest novelty. The length of time between its fabrication and its discovery, the fact that at the time it was said to have been designed stamps were hardly thought of in Italy, and, last but not least, that the improvement of dentelation was not introduced until several years after, combined to consign these audacious frauds to well-merited oblivion.

PRICE OF U.S. ENVELOPE STAMPS.—The stationers, and the people concerned in the envelope trade here, feel a natural anxiety about the bill introduced into the House at Washington, to allow the Postmaster-General to furnish the public with stamped envelopes at the same price that postage stamps are now furnished. These dealers feel that the passage of the bill would prove a serious hurt to their business; but aside from this private consideration, they might feel a public interest in the matter, as men, brothers, and tax-payers; for the proposal is simply one to increase the expenditure of the Post-Office Department several millions a year. It is supposed that if the stamped envelopes were furnished for the price of stamps, few of the latter would be used, and that the department would issue some 400,000,000 envelopes annually, which, at the present rates, would cost 1,920,000 dollars. Add to this the cost of packing and transportation to the post-offices throughout the country, necessarily so much greater than the cost of packing and transporting stamps, and you have a sum which will by no means strengthen the self-sustaining principle of the Post-Office Department. Considering that the stamped envelopes are exceedingly ugly, and not particularly convenient, I confess that I see no good reason why the Department should furnish them, at a cost to the Treasury of 4 dollars 80 cents a thousand, instead of stamps, at a cost of twelve and a-half cents a thousand.—*New York Correspondence, Cincinnati Gazette*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A HIEROGLYPHICAL INSCRIPTION.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—On the scroll beneath the eagle on the 1 cent New Granada stamp is a motto in microscopic letters which I have tried in vain to decipher. It appears to consist in part of the word 'BEATRO.' Some of your sharper-sighted readers may be able to discern the remainder.

Yours respectfully,
OVERY TAYLOR.

[NOTE.—The motto of the Granadine Confederation is *LIBERTAD Y ORDEN*—Liberty and Order—which, by the way, seldom amalgamate. There seems, however, scarcely sufficient room for so many letters. The most powerful magnifiers afford little or no assistance.—ED.]

THE BRITISH GUIANA STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I really should be glad to know in what sense your correspondent, 'Fentonia,' uses the words *quadrangle* and *rectangle* in her letter in last month's magazine (p. 31).

The lady negatives the description given of the provisional stamps of British Guiana, and states they are not *rectangles*, but *quadrangles*. Now a rectangle is a four-sided figure with all its angles right angles; consequently, a square is included in this definition: a quadrangle, as its name implies, is a figure with four sides, whatever be its angles. Therefore every possible rectangle falls within the definition of a quadrangle; and the assertion of 'Fentonia' means, if the terms are accurately used, that these provisional stamps are neither squares, nor are their angles right angles; but that they are four-sided figures differing from a square or other rectangle. Is this really what is meant? or by the word *quadrangle* is square intended? The word *rectangle*, as used in describing these stamps, was intended to include as well a square as a right-angled four-sided figure whose sides were larger than the ends; and such I still believe to be an accurate description. It is true some few are square, or nearly so, but most are longer than wide.

Yours faithfully,
THE WRITER OF THE PAPER ON
BRITISH GUIANA.

ZURICH DATED STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—How do Messrs. Pemberton and Dalston, in their remarks on the above stamps, reconcile their statement that there were no stamps issued in Switzerland until 1850, with the date of 1845 which Lallier gives to the Basle stamps. It is certainly singular that in a country like Switzerland, seven years should elapse from the period when the Zurich essays were printed, to the time when postage stamps were generally brought into use. Any one who would satisfactorily clear up the doubts about the above stamps would confer a benefit on stamp collectors. Without wishing to disparage the labours of the authors of works on forged stamps, for all stamp collectors are under great obligation to them, still I must think that sometimes they raise unnecessary difficulties, —as in the instance of the Wurtemberg *Retourbriefe* stamp, where I can freely endorse your remarks in your notice of Mr. Dalston's useful little work, 'that it is not necessary that the genuine stamp should, in all cases, be on paper with a bluish tinge,' as I have one, the authenticity of which I can vouch for, that is on perfectly white

paper. With regard to the Wurtemberg 18 kreuzer neutral stamp, I suppose Mr. Dalston, and also Mr. Stourton, when they state that the horizontal lines surrounding the figure of value are only twenty-five in number, mean those lines that touch the figure, and not all contained in the central diamond. Congratulating you on the useful epitome in your January number of the new stamps mentioned in last year's magazine,

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
London. NOVICE.

TELEGRAPH STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—I am desirous of suggesting to your readers the propriety of collecting Telegraph Stamps. They are surely more worthy of figuring in an album than bill or receipt stamps which have no affinity to postage stamps, and which have nothing to do with communications of any kind. Now Telegraph Stamps do form a tax on messages sent, only they are transmitted by wires instead of rails. The telegraph has, side by side with the locomotive and the steam-packet, contributed to civilize the world, and to strengthen the 'bond of brotherhood.' The stamps are also the emissions of governments, as far as I know, excepting one or two labels of English companies; and they have another recommendation—they are few in number. At present I only know of four, two Belgian and two Spanish; one of the Spanish is like the 1854 issue of postage stamps, only it has *TELEGRAFOS* above; the value is 1 real, and the colour (I think) blue. The other is, in my opinion, handsomer than any of the postage stamps of Spain. It has a really pretty bust of the queen in an oval, inscribed *TELEGRAFOS*, and the corners are ornamented: the value I do not remember. The Belgians are just issued; they are hexagonal, and perforated; the same portrait as is on the postage stamps is placed in a circle in the centre of these, and a band running round is inscribed with the value 1 franc (green), and 50 c. (slate).

My object in bringing the matter to your notice is to obtain, if possible, the opinions of your readers upon it. For myself, I think there can be no question of the desirability of collecting *telegraph postage* stamps.

Yours faithfully,
D. J. P.

Brixton.

[We beg to second our correspondent's motion.—ED.]

DATES.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—In a notice to some of your correspondents at the end of the January number of your magazine for this year, I see you have considered it necessary to contradict a report of your intention to discontinue its publication. This report had not reached me, and I should have been very sorry had there been any truth in it. I consider your magazine and publications of a kindred character as the only foundation for that history of the great postal revolution, which will doubtless appear at some future day. Without such publications it would be impossible to collect information, or to arrive at truth. There is no doubt every number of your magazine, as it appears, both collects and distributes a great deal of the former, and does its best to arrive as closely as possible at the latter.

There is a point, however, in regard to the arrival at truth or accuracy, which I desire to bring before you, and, by your means, to the notice of those who publish on the subject of postage stamps. I refer to the *date of*

issue. No one, I am sure, will underrate the importance of this point, and many give it very great prominence. An endeavour is made in the published catalogues to arrive at it, with what results a very few remarks will abundantly show.

According to Dr. Gray, the un-centime green Belgian appeared in 1850: Bellars & Davie give 1861. Dr. Gray gives 1852 as the year when the stamps bearing the arms of the city of Madrid were issued: Bellars & Davie give no date; while your magazine for 1863, page 3, gives 1849, and that for 1864, page 103, gives 1852 for the 3 cuartos, and 1853 for the 1 cuarto. Neither of the above catalogues gives any date for the first issue of Portugal.

In one of his many interesting articles (*vide* magazine for 1865, page 81), Overly Taylor writes thus, "Doctors differ" as to the date of the first issue of Thurn and Taxis North and South; Mount Brown gives the year 1850, whilst Levraut gives 1850 for the South, and 1852 for the North; but the complete uniformity of colour between the stamps of both divisions favours the belief in a contemporary emanation. Mœns, who appears to have paid considerable attention to dates of emission, states the issue of both to have been on the 1st of January, 1852. But this is, we think, a mistake.

The doctors do indeed differ, and between them the patient is well nigh killed. Instances similar to the foregoing might easily be multiplied, for they meet us everywhere; their number tells us accuracy is not yet arrived at, and the longer the subject is deferred the more difficult will that accuracy be of attainment.

We have to thank Mr. Pearson Hill for the official information, which settles the point as far as our home dates are concerned. In every country there must be some one who could render the information sought, or if he has passed away, there may still remain sources, which, if quickly made use of, would throw the required light upon the subject.

Trusting these few remarks may arouse the attention of those who are most likely to possess the means of obtaining the information, and thus giving the accuracy desired,

I remain, dear sir, your obedient servant,

Lilley, Herts.

II. E. J.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. D. R., Weymouth.—*Certifo.*, for *certificado*, on some of the older Spanish, is equivalent to *registered*.—It would be premature to discuss the question whether the red half anna of India should be called proof or essay; its character as an accredited emission being not yet lost. We refer you for further information respecting this rare stamp to the talented paper on the subject in our last number.—Bill and receipt stamps have no title to admission in a postage-stamp album; that of proofs or essays must be left to individual opinion.—Dark-blue and slate-blue are the colours of the 6 crazie Tuscan lions.—The Internal Revenue and Telegraph stamps of the United States cannot claim attention, except perhaps the latter (and in this respect we agree with our Brixton correspondent), more than bill or receipt labels.—The Natal stamps and their degrees of rarity are well described in our January number.—Thanks for your information respecting the Scotch locals, which we embody elsewhere.

C. D., Blackheath.—Many thanks for the copies of numbers 1, 2, 5, of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine* which you were good enough to send.

J. B. B.—Thanks for your information respecting the Mauritius green sixpenny.

J. Y.—The Frankfort oval newspaper stamp, like all *objets de fantaisie*, is worth just what it will fetch. It is ignored only by those who do not collect hand-stamped impressions.—We believe the B. G. 9 centesimi of Modena was employed for native gazettes, while the 10 c. Tassa Gazette represented the tax on the introduction of foreign ones into the duchy.—M. Oscar Berger-Levrault dates the black Federal impressions for Switzerland 1850, and the coloured ones 1852.—The Ecuador stamp is the work of a French engraver. We believe Mount Brown has no intention of publishing another edition of his manual. The catalogue in connection with Oppen's Album, which can be purchased separately, contains the fullest account of the New Granada and all other stamps emitted up to the close of last year.—All our 'Damus patimusque' Guiana, original and re-impressions, appear to be fac-similes, and have the full stop after *cent*; neither is the *D* in *damus* at all like an *o*.

W. S. T.—Your Zurich is evidently hand stamped on a newspaper, and admissible in a collection equally with others of similar character.

A CORRESPONDENT.—We chronicle your Portuguese among the resuscitations in our article on novelties.

S. H. L., Tonbridge.—For the former portion of your letter we refer you in reply to our answer above, under the initials of J. Y.—Unless you have personal friends resident in New Granada, we cannot tell you how to procure the stamps of that country.—The sixpenny black Victoria, current issue, with white band round the oval, is rare; but your specimen is by no means unique. Our own collection contains one.

W. G. A., Belfast, Maine, U.S.—Notwithstanding the apparently indubitable authority of your friend, the Chilean minister, we take leave to credit the existence of the port called Colon, *vide* maps, geographies, gazetteers, cyclopedias, and travellers, though why its name should be on the Chili stamps we cannot well comprehend, unless all the correspondence of that country with the old world takes place through that distant port. With regard to Colon signifying colony on the impression in question, we should just as soon suspect our independent transatlantic cousins would call themselves colonists of England, as the free and independent Chilians of retaining that long-rejected appellation.

J. M. B.—Your New South Wales is a curiosity.—We have taken counsel's opinion on your yellow-Peruvian, which is unfavourable. Your blue is the one first mentioned in Fentonia's paper.

C. H. M.—This correspondent, who writes to inquire if he can obtain the first eleven numbers of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, takes the opportunity to make the following pleasing statement:—"I commenced your magazine at the 17th number, and found it so very interesting, that I subsequently bought the five preceding ones, so as to complete the second volume; and have taken it in ever since." Replying to his inquiry, we are sorry to have to inform him that vol. i. is out of print, and cannot be obtained. We understand that our publishers intend to bring out another edition of their Price Catalogue shortly. As stated above, we believe there will not be another edition of Mount Brown's Catalogue; whether its author has 'retired from the philatelic world' or not, we are unable to state.

TYRO.—It is a mistake to suppose that the first issue of United States stamps took place in 1857; the correct date is 1847, when the 5 c. (Franklin) brown and 10 c. black were emitted. The issue, commonly stated to have been made in 1857, really occurred in 1851.

POSTAGE-STAMP PAPER & WATER-MARKS.

(Continued from page 35).

GREECE.—The Greek stamps were printed, like the French, on paper tinted with the same colour as the impression. Some of them bear on the back their value in figures, printed the same colour as the stamp, according to a proposition of M. Barre. It is usual to distinguish two issues of these stamps; that of Paris and that of Athens. The Paris proofs, whether of essays or admitted stamps, do not bear figures on the reverse. Among the specimens actually used, the 10 lepta alone bore this distinction; and of the Athenian issue the 1 lepton and 2 lepta are the only ones without it. All the rest have their value marked on the back, but in characters not so large as those on the 10 lepta of the Paris issue. We mention this well-known circumstance because it may be assimilated to watermarking.

IONIAN ISLES.—The stamps of the solitary 1860 series, are printed on slightly tinted paper. The yellow one, value 1 obolus, or a half-penny, contains no watermark. The blue, double its value, bears the figure 2. The red, double again, 4 oboli or twopence, is watermarked with a large figure 1. Why this instead of 4, if the computation is by oboli? and why is not the unit on the yellow 1 obolus stamp? At first one might imagine some mistake in the value, successively copied in all catalogues. But the fact being substantiated in the same manner in M. Rondot's article, leaves no doubt on the subject. We leave to others the care of explaining this anomaly.

MALTA.—The former issue of this island's stamp, in 1861, was on white paper unwatermarked. On many of these stamps the paper has contracted a bluish tint, like that of the English. The impressions since 1863 are on paper with the accompanying watermark.

EGYPT.—The recently-issued series of this country, for chronological reasons, is unnoticed in Dr. Magnus's valuable paper. Their watermark is a pyramid, surmounted by a star: the former emblem is peculiarly

appropriate to Egypt; the latter, evidently intended for Sirius, the dog-star, so-called from acting as pointer, to signalize, when in a particular position in the sky, that which so powerfully influences the prosperity of Egypt—the periodical rise of the Nile.

TWO SICILIES.—The stamps of Sicily, with portrait of king Ferdinand II., contain no watermark. They were impressed on tinted paper, which tended to mar the effect of the

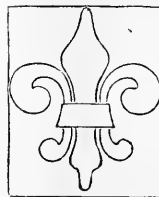
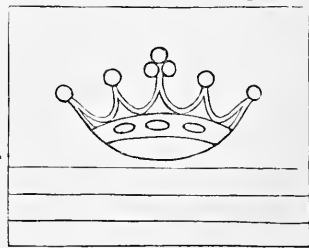


plate. Those with the Neapolitan arms, the series of 1858, often show fleurs-de-lys entire or in portions. Many present no traces thereof. On our own blue $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese Savoy cross we have noticed traces of a watermark in which we fancied we could

read the letters GNO under a transverse line. This would evidently be a portion of the word REGNO and of a completer inscription. The Neapolitan stamps, then, must be classified with those whose watermarks consist of a single design, the different parts of which fill up the whole sheet.

TUSCANY.—The lion issue of the Tuscan stamps in 1852 was on bluish paper, with a watermark composed of ducal crowns of a large size, occupying the space of several stamps, reproduced a certain number of times, and separated from one another by three parallel lines. On these stamps are therefore to be found either straight lines, curves, or circles, these two latter figures forming part of the bands and pearls of the crown.



The 1856 series is on white paper with a different watermark. It is formed of ver-



tical undulating lines, crossing each other as in the appended engraving, and thus forming pointed ovals or various other figures. On this watermarked groundwork are perceivable in a certain num-

ber of stamps, letters or fragments of letters belonging to some inscription probably disposed on the curved lines, as appears from the situation of these letters in relation to the undulated lines.

The letters which we have been able to recognize distinctly on the stamps at our disposal are F, A, C, O, L, S, E, and the portions are analogous to that which serves as a specimen, and which we refer in this particular case to PO or TO.

As to the inscription, the study of the letters inclines us to the belief of its being the same as that found printed on the framework of the stamps, FRANCO BOLLO POSTALE TOSCANO. The difficulty of procuring an entire sheet or of making one up by means of loose stamps, explains the doubt with which we venture this opinion. However it may be, the presence of these undulated lines and fragments of letters as watermarks is characteristic of the white paper issue of the Tuscan stamps. It is on similarly watermarked paper that were issued in 1859 the provisional government stamps bearing the cross of Savoy. Some essays were struck off on unwatermarked white, and also printed black on coloured papers.

There exists a stamp of a circular form printed in black on very thin paper, which when gummed has a great analogy with that formed from vegetable matter. It is the BOLLO STRAORDINARIO PER LE POSTE, 2 SOLDI. This stamp, like the tassa gazette of Modena, was a kind of chiffrage-tax affixed on newspapers coming from Austria. It was originated in 1854 in reprisals for the extra tax laid by that power on the importation of journals, in face of a convention to the contrary concluded in 1851.

STATES OF THE CHURCH.—The Roman stamps are printed on coloured paper, except the 8 and the 50 bajocchi and the 1 scudo, which are impressed colour on white, and are all devoid of watermark. The issues vary solely in the different shades of paper employed. There exist several varieties of the $\frac{1}{2}$ bajocco, and of the 2, 4, and 6 bajocchi [the paper of the 5 bajocchi, and the ink employed for the 50 bajocchi, moreover, are lighter or darker in hue].

ROMAGNA.—The provisional stamps of the Romagnese government, and their well-known essays, are printed on coloured paper, unwatermarked [the shades slightly vary from the original in the paper employed for the recent reprints].

PARMA AND MODENA.—No watermarks. Stamps impressed on white or coloured paper, according to the series.

(To be continued).

REFLECTIONS ON THE SYDNEY STAMPS.

BY FENTONIA.

'Thus have I sung of fields, of flocks, and trees,
And of the waxen work of labouring bees.'

VIRGIL'S 4TH GEORGIC.

THE peculiarities of the early stamps of New South Wales (by common consent called Sydney stamps) have already been so ably treated by Dr. Gray and Mr. Pemberton, that a supplementary paper from one, who has earned *No Name* in *The Pursuits of Literature*, must inevitably be regarded as treading on exceedingly *Delicate Ground*. But the *cacoethes scribendi* is a disease best cured by allowing its free development; for though its diagnosis is obscure, its prognosis is simple enough. Let it alone, and it will exhaust itself.

The Sydney stamps do not at first sight present a very tempting theme for an ambitious writer. *What will he do with it?* may possibly be asked with regard to this subject. Why, most likely, like many a Grub-street tyro, he will scribble on with *Great Expectations* of success, find his hopes but *Shattered Idols*, and finally be thankful to reap even *Barren Honour*.

Much, it is true, has been already written on these stamps; still as a landscape may appear different from different points of view, and as for instance the mind that could write a book with such a lugubrious title as *Letters from the Dead*, would probably regard things in a totally opposite light from that in which they were seen by the cheerful authoress of *Sunny Memories*; so the present writer may, it is hoped without presumption, add some-

what to the general information, without detracting from the value of that already known.

A great reasoner of the last century (Bishop Butler) tells us that 'probability is the guide of life;' and certainly it is too often the only basis which we have for credibility. In the following remarks on the Sydney stamps we shall be obliged to argue much from probability, from sheer want of satisfactory data to guide us. The artist named Carmichael, who, it is said, engraved the first die for these stamps, has not we believe furnished the timbrophilic world with any explanation of the design. Guided therefore by the legend, *Sic fortis Etruria crevit*—'Thus Etruria became strong,'—which is taken from the second *Georgic*, verse 533, we are inclined to think that the design is principally suggested by the subjects treated of in the four *Georgics*. Farmer Virgil was undoubtedly a first-rate agriculturist in his day. He knew nothing of chemistry or machinery, and was perhaps a little too superstitious about planetary influence, but his principles of agriculture were not only pre-eminently practical, but have, so far as we know, never been impugned by the most scientific Georgophilist of the present day (this is not a newly-coined word, but is a name assumed many years since by the students of an agricultural college at Florence). In fact, Alderman Mechi's land at Tiptree is probably, as regards fundamental principles, cultivated very much the same as farmer Virgil's was at Mantua, eighteen hundred years ago.

The presiding lady is Britannia, holding some emblem of authority or industry, which we do not venture positively to identify. On the penny stamps she has a curly head of hair, just as she appears on our Bank of England notes. On the twopenny and threepenny stamps she has a primitive-looking helmet, or it may be a coronet. Her auditors seem to be convicts just landed from the ship, which, as the sails are furled, is probably lying at anchor in Sydney Cove. The men each appear to have a chain attached to the

left leg, just as may still be seen on the refractory among our convicts at Portland, and which we ourselves saw when at Portsmouth some years ago. In good specimens of the penny stamp each chain may be distinctly traced to the left ankle of the convicts. The woman has no chain; and we believe female convicts are never condemned to wear them. It is remarkable that Mr. Pemberton (vol. iii., page 39) still clings to the notion that they are nuggets; a notion which seems to have originated in what may be termed the dark ages of stamp collecting (see vol. i., page 30). But, in the first place, nuggets are never circular, but generally shapeless lumps; and secondly, they could hardly by any means be strung or linked together. Probably the only foundation for these 'picture' stamps being called 'gold diggings' may be traced to the fact of their being introduced about the time of the discovery of auriferous deposits in New South Wales, viz., May, 1851.

With regard to the fettered convicts, the allusion is classical, and therefore consistent with the supposed design. Some of the rustic slaves in Virgil's time worked in fetters, and were distinguished as *servi vincti*; while those who worked without personal restraint were called *servi soluti*.

The bale of goods in the twopenny and threepenny stamps is frequently inscribed n^o. 0. in the two upper divisions formed by the intersecting cord, while in the lower divisions is the date of the establishment of the colony, 1788. Our suggestion with regard to the above letters is (bearing in mind the hypothesis that the whole 'picture' is founded upon the *Georgics*)—that they stand for Nova Ostia. It will be remembered that Ostia was the port of Rome, from which both the city and the whole province derived foreign supplies, and exported merchandize. Gibbon thus describes this Augustan port—'The port of Ostia was one of the boldest and most stupendous works of Roman magnificence. This Roman port, commenced by the genius of the first Cæsar, insensibly swelled to the size of an episcopal city, where the corn of Africa was deposited in spacious granaries for the use of the capital.' Now, on

turning to the second *Georgic*, from whence the motto of the seal or stamp is taken, we find in the context that the poet had been praising the conquests of land made by agriculture, as far better than acquiring it by war and bloodshed. 'Thus' (he continues), 'Etruria became strong;' and immediately adds, '*Scilicet et rerum facta est pulcherrima Roma.*' What can be more natural than for Sydney, with its fine cove and adjoining harbours, to assume to herself the proud distinction of being the New Ostia of the most important colony of the Antipodes—the Antipodean Rome. A Great Seal probably became requisite when the home government granted permission for New South Wales to govern itself by its own representatives, forming the Legislative Assembly, which was in the year 1829. This is therefore most likely the date of the picture—the government-house situated on an eminence near the water, one of the churches, and possibly either the town-hall or the Legislative Chambers being the buildings represented in the view.

All the penny stamps which we have seen are deficient in the mysterious *N^o O.*, while the date is seldom found distinct, if at all, except on those without clouds. We believe the green stamps always have the full inscription; but they are generally so badly postmarked that it can only be positively so affirmed of the few.

There seems to be neither man nor cattle in the twopenny stamps, and sometimes the trees are wanting. The plough we cannot feel certain of, but accept Mr. Pemberton's assurance of its being visible. The ship in the penny stamps is always turned to the right, and has but two masts; while in the twopenny and threepenny stamps it turns to the left, and has three masts. In the red stamp the corner stars are hollow, with a dot in the centre; in the blue there is no central dot (with rare exceptions); in the green the corner stars have a solid centre. The pattern at the central top of the twopenny stamps seems accidentally or intentionally to give the outline of the letter W. The same may be observed at the bottom of the threepenny stamps.

The bee-hive is common to all the Sydney

stamps, as it also accompanies Britannia on the Bank of England notes. It varies slightly in position and pattern on different stamps, and only on the penny stamps without clouds are bees seen hovering round it. It is curious that Virgil invariably calls the rulers of the hives *kings*—in modern apiology we call them queens. When was the Salic law abolished in the hive? In a black-letter book on farming in our possession, by Conrad Heresbatch, 1577, entitled '*The Four Bookes of Husbandrie*,' in which much is quoted from the *Georgics*; the *kings* or *maister bees* are also spoken of. Shakespeare, who was supposed to know everything, supports the same opinion, when he says in that fine description of the habits of bees in 'Henry V., act i., scene 2nd'—'The honey bees, they have a *king* and officers of sorts.'

Whether the theory which has been advanced by way of key to the 'picture' on the Sydney stamps be true or not, it is at least plausible. The fields (1st *Georgic*), the trees (2nd *Georgic*), the flocks (3rd *Georgic*), the bees (4th *Georgic*), together with the ship and important buildings, are highly suggestive of ancient Ostia; while Britannia seated on her commercial bale, and pointing with her left hand to the implements of labour, while she reminds her convict suppliants '*Sic fortis Etruria crevit*,' not inaptly connects the idea of Sydney being a modern Ostia to the great Australian colonies.

Rambling as these reflections have necessarily been, from a desire to avoid touching upon points already treated by abler pens, and visionary as some of the hypotheses may possibly prove, it is nevertheless hoped that they may not be deemed altogether uninteresting to the thoughtful and inquiring timbrophilist.

WILLIAM MULREADY'S FIRST STEPS IN ART.

COLLECTORS who prize their Mulready envelopes, will doubtless read with interest the following sketch of an incident in the designer's early life, which we extract from the *British Workman*.

'All the household work was done earlier that day than usual, the steps were whitened,

the knives cleaned, the frugal dinner served, the dishes washed, and tastefully arranged, to the glory of Sarah Jane's pattern of a kitchen, and Sarah, in clean apron and cap, congratulated herself on a long, quiet afternoon, to be devoted to hemming and darning, and all the countless odds and ends of a thoroughly busy housewife; she was sure she would enjoy herself, free from interruption, for it was too late now for those "little plagues" of artists to come banging at the door, pulling the bell, and "muddying the steps;" for Sarah's master, himself a sculptor and Royal Academician, was in the habit of giving sage advice and valuable counsel to youthful aspirants in art, and consequently causing the only drawback to Sarah's otherwise easy place; and indeed it must be confessed, that the litter made by these young students, who never by any chance rubbed their shoes on the mat, and who always walked in the mud, with characteristic carelessness, was enough to make Sarah denominate them, "little plagues." But there was no fear of any of them coming now, it was long past their time. The kettle was filled and on the fire, the work-box was open, and the stockings were undergoing the process of examination—cunning, indeed, must have been the hole or tear that escaped Sarah's keen sight—a fracture at last rewarded her patient scrutiny, so threading her needle, and gloving her hand in the foot of the ailing hose, she began to darn. Hardly had the bright steel disappeared in the fabric, when a ring came at the bell, a loud ring, a peal, in fact; one of those rings that oblige the operator to pull the handle out to its full stretch. Now if there is one thing more disagreeable than another, it is a ring of this sort; for independent of the danger of spoiling the spring, the bobbing of the bell, and the prolonged clamour, are especially annoying to a quiet mind.

"Whoever can that be? why can't they come at decent time? Pretty steps I shall have now! whoever pulled a bell like that will not be particular about their shoes!" So said Sarah as she proceeded to open the door, but what words shall express her dismay, when, standing on the steps, with folio under his arm, and roll of drawing paper in his

outstretched hand, appeared a "plague," quite a new one, after the usual time too, and, yes, the muddiest of shoes; it was altogether too much for Sarah; and, contrary to her custom, she decided, without informing her master, on sending the "bothering chap" off.

"How dare you come making a dirt and noise here? Be off with you! Do you hear? Don't stand there, but go when I tell you."

The boy stood quite still, he was not afraid, neither was he impudent, but seemed as if he did not quite understand her, which enraged Sarah the more, and there is no doubt she would have given him what she termed the length of her tongue, but, suddenly footsteps were heard in the passage, and she silently made way for her master.

"What is it, my little man?"

"Sure I want you to get me into the Academy, if you please, sir."

"Time enough for that; but let me see what you can do; come in," and in he walked, without appearing conscious of Sarah's annihilating look.

"Ah," said her master, after a glance at the contents of the folio, "plenty of time for the Academy; *try again*; now go back to your home, make another drawing of this figure, and come to me in a month."

The little student gathered up his works, and bowing with native grace to the kind gentleman, promised to attend to his instructions, and left the house once more to Sarah.

That day-month the sturdy ring came again. Sarah received the little fellow rather more graciously, and ushered him in to her master's presence.

"Oh," said he, bestowing more attention on the drawing, and marking the boy's anxious face; "this is much better; but you must *try again*! See if you can make a better drawing than this! Students in art must not mind work."

"It's not the work that will frighten me, sir," said the lad, and away he trudged, to return in a week, this time.

"This is, indeed, an advance," said the surprised Academician; "you must come into my studio and work there. By-the-way,

you have not yet told me your name; what is it?" "William Mulready, sir." "Then, William Mulready, attend to me; always strive as you have done lately, and your name will be an honoured one indeed; but mind, never leave off *trying again*."

'All the artistic world knows how true these words of Banks, the sculptor, have proved.'

OCEAN PENNY POSTAGE.

FROM 'THE TIMES.'

THE Penny Postage is now so familiar an institution that any revival of the inquiries out of which it sprang will be a genuine surprise to the public. The system is older than free trade, and almost as old as railways. Nobody questions the truth of the principle or the singular value of the reform. Taken altogether, it was perhaps of all modern reforms the one which was most immediately felt by the people at large. There was not a household in the kingdom in which the new privilege was not at once appreciated and employed; while the calculations of revenue and expenditure on which the proposal was based were gradually verified by experience. It is fair enough, therefore, to ask why a principle thus established should be limited in its application, and why a low uniform rate of postage should not be the rule in all postal services alike.

At present our foreign and colonial posts are regulated upon the old system. The rates are not uniform, nor are they absolutely low. There is certainly a reason, as we shall presently show, for arguing that they are not too high; but the question is whether the results can be properly appealed to in justification of the system. It will probably be recollected that the packet service costs the country about a million a-year; but, as it is available for other than postal uses, only half the amount, or some £470,000, is actually charged to the post-office. That sum pays for our ocean mail service; and, as there is a loss upon the business, it may be plausibly urged that the price received can hardly be too large. A short time ago there was only one foreign

or colonial packet service which paid its expenses, and that was the short service across the channel. The correspondence between Dover and Calais produced a profit to the post-office; on all other lines the work was done at a loss. At first sight, therefore, it would be hard to believe that the duty charged by the post-office on foreign or colonial letters could bear reduction. It was a different case with the inland service five-and-twenty years ago. There we had a large profit, and, consequently, a large margin to deal with; here we have a dead loss, which it is obviously not desirable to increase.

But reformers in all departments of public business are too well acquainted with this predicament to be in any way discouraged by it. They turn it rather to their own advantage, and start with the assumption that a system of business which leaves a deficit is convicted of unsoundness by its results. So there are people who make the same use of this loss in the ocean postal service that Mr. Gladstone once did of a chasm in the revenue. He said he should excavate and widen the gulf a little, preparatory to filling it up; and in the same way it is argued that the charge upon ocean letters should be lowered in order to make ocean postage pay. The present case of the post-office authorities comes to this—that they do not carry letters enough in the mail packets to defray the expense incurred. But it is retorted at once that the reason why letters are so few is that postage is so heavy, and that if the charge were reduced the receipts would be greater. Even if the receipts were no less, the case for reform would be made out, for in that event the public would be much better off, and the post-office, at any rate, no worse.

The contrast drawn between the carriage rates of letters and those of other goods or merchandize on board ocean steamers is unquestionably rather startling. At the first blush of the matter there seems no reason why a package of certain weight and dimensions containing letters should cost any more for conveyance than a package of the same weight and dimensions containing any other commodities. Yet the actual difference

of charge is incredible. Fine goods of any kind from England to the West Indies are carried at the rate of from £7 to £10 per ton of 40 cubic feet; a bale of letters of the same weight and size carried over the same ground by the same ship would cost £1,792 per ton. It is fair enough to observe that the postage rate of 6d. per half ounce on which this reckoning is based includes other expenses, such as the receipt, sorting, and manipulation of letters, foreign agencies, and so forth, but still the contrast is overwhelming. Pursuing the inquiry on the same track and by the same method of illustration, we learn that the carriage of letters to Canada is at the rate of £2,388 per ton, and to the United States at the rate of £3,584, though £3 per ton is considered a fair freight for fine goods between Liverpool and New York. Moreover, when the argument from previous and incidental expenses is sifted, it is alleged that a letter carried between London and China would bear fewer postmarks, or, in other words, show fewer signs of manipulation and trouble than a letter sent from a town in one English county to a village in another.

It is, of course, a most pertinent question whether the mail packets are not subsidized too highly; but on this point some very curious experience has been obtained. The Post-Office authorities maintain that in this ocean service, though regularity, speed, punctuality, and multiplication of facilities will increase correspondence directly, that result is not produced in any material degree by the reduction of charge. Some years ago there was actually a considerable cheapening of the postage on colonial letters—equivalent generally to 50 per cent.—but it was followed by only a small increase in the number of letters conveyed. When, however, a second mail to Australia was established the correspondence with that country was immediately increased by one-third. The fact is—and it is a most remarkable piece of evidence admitted by all parties to the dispute—that the commercial classes look upon these postage duties as utterly beneath their consideration. Nor, indeed, is it any wonder that people who are indifferent even to the rate of discount should disregard the stamp upon a letter. Our merchants want

frequency, quickness, and regularity of communication, and if the post-office gives them service of this kind, the charge is considered quite inappreciable. If penny postage in the packet service were the established rule, and a shilling were charged for letters posted at the eleventh hour, every commercial letter would go under the shilling rate. It seems to be believed on all hands that as far as this important branch of correspondence is concerned the present postage rate is not thought oppressive, nor would its reduction earn many thanks or produce any increase of business.

So far, therefore, we seem to find more reason for enhancing the rate of postage to a remunerative point than for lowering it; but that is not the whole of the story. There are other letters besides business letters, and other correspondents besides commercial correspondents. Is not this species of intercourse between people at home and their friends or relations in the colonies confined and restricted by an expensive postage rate? Would not letters, backwards and forwards, be largely multiplied if a penny rate were substituted? Supposing that the present rates were retained for letters posted within a certain time of the actual despatch of the mails, might not letters posted earlier be received with a penny stamp? Such an experiment would be so far safe that the money cheerfully paid for special privileges would probably almost maintain the receipts of the post-office at their present amount, while the duties accruing from ordinary letters would be so much more income. We confess, however, to some doubts whether people living thousands of miles apart would ever correspond so freely as at home, even with a penny post to encourage them. The old proverb 'out of sight out of mind,' is peculiarly applicable to this case; nor do we feel sure that an 8d. or 1s. stamp stands much in the way of a friendly letter from Canada or India. Still, cheapness and freedom are blessings everywhere, and there is no reason why their effect should not be tried, if practicable, in the ocean postal service.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

We must confess to having entertained some misgivings with regard to our ability for making up a respectable article, under our usual heading, in this department of the magazine, but, what with certified and probable expectancies, minor changes, introductions to engravings, remarks, corrections, notes, and annotations, we are greatly surprised to find so much, and by no means superficial, matter with which to swell our paper on novelties this month. Having no actually new issues of any hitherto unrepresented country to commemorate, we commence with a simple variety.

HOLSTEIN.—The first engraving represented is that of the 1¼ schilling for Holstein.



It differs from its now superseded predecessor, having a coloured in lieu of white inscription, one or two other trifling variations, and being deep violet instead of lilac. Holstein, Schleswig, and Schleswig-Holstein, so long

represented in our collections by a solitary pair of impressions, bid fair to demand at least two pages of an album for themselves. One more appearance will give a dozen in each.

ST. KITS.—Three years back an expected issue for this island was reported, and collectors were on the *qui vive* for specimens. None appearing, the matter remained in abeyance; but we conclude the emission will shortly prove an accomplished fact, having just had an opportunity of seeing a set of essays, or rather proofs, for this heretofore unrepresented spot. They are simple, but exquisitely executed; the groundwork containing a well-designed portrait of the Queen, evidencing the workmanship of the engraver of the Antigua stamps. The device much more resembles those of St. Lucia, an oval band containing the words ST. KITS and POSTAGE. Like them, moreover, there is no place for marking the value; which circumstance we think a decided defect. The colours, which are very poor, of those we saw are four,—blue, black, green, and brown,

and consequently the same number of values are most probably contemplated.

FINLAND.—Two engravings of the new series for this country, which was fully described in our last number, are appended.



The reason assigned for this issue is, that a change in the currency took place in November last, the mark having been substituted for the rouble. A mark is worth 100 pen, or 25 silver, or 30 paper kopecs.

MOLDO-WALLACHIA.—When the semi-convulsions, at present agitating this little-known but interesting and important country, are settled by the appointment of a successor to prince Couza, we may confidently anticipate a speedy re-issue of novelties.

LEVANT.—This stamp, of which a cut is subjoined, as well as its companion, was described in our last month's number. We gave the values according to information received from the individual of whom we purchased. These, we are given to understand by a correspondent, are not correct. The higher denomination,



here represented, is worth 2 piastres only, not 5, as previously stated. The other, figured in our number for September last, instead of 1 piastre, sinks to the modest amount of 10 paras, losing three-fourths of our informant's valuation.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Under this head we have but to remark that the recently-issued nine-penny, large letters at the angles, seem to be withdrawn, as we have been unable to procure specimens from any, even the principal post-offices. At one of them we were shown a sheet of the small-lettered, and told they had been received that very morning from Somerset House. Parisian, Italian, and other continental collectors will be tan-

talized at hearing of a threepenny issue by Messrs. Smith & Elder; but that firm has ruthlessly, but peremptorily, forbidden their impressions to be sold under any circumstances. The envelopes alluded to by ourselves, in May last, have emerged from their long repose; as we see them advertised for sale in a Parisian magazine.

A correspondent informs us that the papers for the cattle census, now being taken, have two penny stamps impressed upon them—one near the address of the party to whom they are sent, the other near the printed address to which the paper, which is blue tinted, is to be returned.

SHANGHAI.—The stamps of this locality were distinctly enumerated in our February number. One of them, the 16 (misprinted 6) cents green, is here represented, but a simple cut such as this, can scarcely be expected to assimilate to the chaste



elegance of the original type. We presume, however, it has not yet come into circulation, the last mail from Shanghai having brought a one candareen blue, identical in design with the others of the series.

TRINIDAD.—We have just received specimens of the four values of this island. The hues are decidedly, in the three higher denominations, and partially in the lowest, changed from those of the preceding set. The shilling shows a much lighter mauve, the groundwork being, whether intentionally or accidentally we cannot tell, mottled in a peculiar way. The sixpenny is of a grass in lieu of an emerald green; the fourpenny a light violet-lilac; and the penny less deep in tint than heretofore.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.—In our number for last October, was figured and described the expected new representative for this colony. Greatly to the surprise of collectors, when the real Simon Pure made its *débüt*, it does not quite respond to description. The actual issue is certainly one of the most original and elegant specimens of postage stamp device we possess. On comparison with our October engraving, several dis-

crepancies will be observable. Neither crown nor cipher trenches on the oval, as in the case of the essay from which our cut was designed. BRITISH COLUMBIA POSTAGE occupies the upper and major portion of the band, separated from the value by a couple of double crosses; whereas our cut shows BRITISH COLUMBIA on the left, and POSTAGE THREEPENCE on the right. Neither are the crown nor the heraldic flowers precisely identical; in fact, they may be pronounced as decidedly improved. The ornamentation of the spandrels is, moreover, sensibly ameliorated in consequence of a slight rounding of the angles.

SPAIN.—Annexed is a representation of an official stamp of a novel character; it is used by the members of the Cortes, or 'Congress of Deputies,' to frank letters written by them in the house, and which are collected and taken to the post each evening during the sessions. It is impressed in black ink.



BAHAMAS.—Our last importation from these islands, a few days since, brought the penny stamps of a much more roseate hue than they have ever been previously. The sixpenny, on the contrary, instead of being paler than before, is now an intense and rich violet. One would imagine that some of the postal authorities are in league with dealers or collectors for the purpose of multiplying varieties.

PRUSSIA.—We here afford a more detailed description of the elegant pair, quoted in our last number as being shortly to be issued from that country. They are rectangular oblong; one bears a large 10 in the centre, surrounded by an oval frame containing the inscription, PREUSSEN above, SILB. GR. below. The rest of the field is occupied by small ornamentations, which the microscope discloses to be Prussian eagles. In the central cipher good eyes may read the words POST MARKE twice. The groundwork of the stamp is filled with lines in squares. Rose impression. The second is similar, but blue; value 30 silb. gr., and the frame rectangular instead of oval. They are gummed in such a way as

to render it impossible to detach them when once affixed. They are perforated, and are said to be proposed for registered letters only.

URUGUAY.—A specimen of an issue proposed for this country, was engraved and the whole set described in our February number. By a letter dated December 29, received by M. Moens, he was informed that the type not having been received from England, the postal authorities of Uruguay were about issuing provisionals, after the manner of the current 20 centesimi of Italy. These were to date from New Year's day last. Something or somebody went wrong. The stamps in actual use are congenerical, but not identical with those described. Our readers will please to look at the 10 centesimi engraved, and note the following discrepancies. No inscription at sides, the whole being above; MONTEVIDEO as represented. Value in words, repeated on both figures. Background composed of the value, 10 centesimos, in minute characters, in the style of the 10 silb. gr. and 30 kreuzer stamps of Thurn and Taxis. The other stamps of the series are similar.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—An American correspondent informs us of the advent of a new 13 c. for this island, similar in every respect to the lately-chronicled 1 c., 2 c., and 5 c., and we presume, like the latter, a provisional.

DUTCH GUIANA.—Another correspondent confirms the now almost universal belief that the stamps so long attributed to this colony must look elsewhere for a resting-place; but adds, from the same official authority, that a postal issue is contemplated there in the course of the present year.

UNITED STATES.—We had thought it probable that the 9 cents yellow, 18 cents red, and 30 cents green, United States envelopes, might have been intended to supersede the 12 cents, 24 cents, and 40 cents respectively; but our supposition is now nullified by the fact of the re-appearance of these three latter values under new colours—brown, dull-blue, and rose—type remaining as before.

CEYLON.—The perforated one-and-nine-penny label of this island, so long demanded by continental collectors, is at last a reality.

HAMBURG.—The colour of the 2½ schilling has been changed from dark chrome to deli-

cate light green. The 1¼ schilling exists in a dull-brown shade, as well as in mauve.

NORWAY.—The 3 skilling mauve, just issued, completes the current or armorial series of this country.

BELGIUM.—We have just been favoured with a sight of an essay very superior to the current issue, but retaining the great imperfection of omission of country's name. It bears a good portrait of the present king in uniform, POSTES above, value, 20 CENTIMES, below.

HOLLAND.—A set lower in value than those stamps hitherto employed by this country is expected shortly. These are for the local postage of *feuilletons*, journals, &c.; and are to sport the arms of the Netherlands. The essays referred to last month are anticipatory of a change of type for the existing values, and have been produced by a novel and special process of engraving known only as yet to its inventor. There are two values, which reproduced in different colours on various tinted papers form no fewer than 700 distinct varieties with which our collection is about to be enriched by the liberality of the proprietor. The effect is peculiar, showing the great diversity producible by impressions of the same hue on various tints. The style of the pair is similar—profile of reigning sovereign to the right, in an oval. In the 5 cents this oval is enclosed in square frame, NEDERLANDE above, POST and ZEGEL at sides, value beneath. The 10 cents has 10 and c. at upper and lower angles; both oval and outer frame beaded; POSTZEGEL above, and value beneath, each in a curved band.

POSTAGE-STAMP PORTRAITS.—IV.

KAMEHAMEHA IV.

IN continuance of our sketches of the lives of monarchs and statesmen whose heads are engraved on the postage stamps of their respective countries, we cannot do better than reprint from the *Illustrated London News* of March 5, 1864, the following account of the late king of the Sandwich Isles, whose portrait appears in the obsolete two cent rose, and the current two cent bright-red.

'The young king, whose untimely death is now lamented by all who feel an interest

in the progress of the Hawaiian race, or in the political independence of the Sandwich Islands, was indeed a fine fellow; with the mind and manners of an English gentleman. His late majesty, Alexander Liholiho Iolani, who reigned under the dynastic name of Kamehameha IV., was born on the 9th of February, 1834. He was the grandson of Kamehameha the Great, being the son of Kekuanoa, a warrior of the times of the conquest, a chief of high rank, who married the daughter of Kamehameha I., the founder of the line. It was this Kamehameha I. by whose military and political genius were united in one compact body those islands which had previously composed so many independent states, each having its own monarch. He was Kamehameha the Great. The one who has just died was Kamehameha the Good.

'It was on the 15th of December, 1854, that Kamehameha IV. ascended the throne of the Hawaiian Islands. Never, perhaps, did any sovereign more sincerely resolve that, since he was called to bear the honours and with them the cares of royalty, he would faithfully perform its duties. He has done so, not merely as an active, keen, and energetic ruler, but as a zealous patriot of every work of social improvement or instruction, designed by the English church missionaries and others, for the benefit of his people. On the 19th of June, 1856, he married Emma, the grand-daughter, by a native woman, of John Young, an Englishman.*

'In May, 1858, the happiness of the royal marriage was completed by the birth of a son, who unfortunately died in August 1862; and this event cast a gloom over the sensitive and affectionate mind of the young father, which is thought to have hastened his own death.

'The late king had received from English private tutors a good liberal education. He was well acquainted with the Latin, Greek, and German languages, as well as with all the best English literature. He spoke English, which is the court language of Honolulu, without the slightest foreign ac-

cent. As for his personal appearance, he stood over six feet in height, was of an olive complexion, a very pleasing countenance, and an agreeable and gentlemanly demeanour. At the levées, drawing-rooms, and state ceremonies, as well as in private company, he conversed with the greatest ease, intelligence, and self-possession. The English bishop of Honolulu, who has written a short memoir of him in the *Guardian*, describes him as "a man of rare physical powers, of elegant taste, and keen perception. He could enjoy Kingsley, Thackeray, and Tennyson, and was for ever quoting Shakespeare. But the bent of his mind was still theological." He had actually studied some works of controversial divinity. Since his family bereavement he had sought consolation in translating the book of common prayer, with a vigorously-written preface of his own.

'It is well known that Queen Victoria has always taken a lively personal interest in the Hawaiian royal family. At the baptism of the little prince, who was to have been educated by the bishop of Honolulu until he should be old enough to send to Eton, our Queen and the Prince of Wales were to have been the sponsors, personally represented on that occasion by the British commissioner, Mr. W. W. Follett Synge, and by Mrs. Synge, as proxies. This interesting ceremony only awaited the arrival of the newly-consecrated bishop; unhappily before he could reach the islands the young child was carried off, and now the father is no more. He died in the palace at Honolulu, on November 30th, 1863. On the Sunday following, in the church hung with black, bishop Staley preached his funeral sermon, which was printed at full length in the native Hawaiian newspaper. The king's body, dressed in military uniform, lay in state for many hours in a room lit by funeral candles, where stood the widowed queen, the queen dowager, the princess royal, and all the great personages of the court; while thousands of the people, thronging to the palace as soon as the news of this national calamity had reached them, were admitted by turn to look upon their deceased monarch, and to cry aloud with the voice of mourning for his loss. Such is the custom of the country.'

* The lady who, since her widowhood, has visited this country, and whose affability made her so popular whilst here.

With this description a view of the royal palaces and a portrait of the late king are given, the latter resembling, very nearly, the likeness on the current two-cent stamp. The new king, brother to the deceased, reigns now by the name of Kamehameha V., and his portrait may be expected to appear on the new 5 cent stamp.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

BY AN AMATEUR.

AUSTRIAN MERCURIES.—Within the last few weeks a number of yellow heads of Mercury have been freely offered for sale by leading English and Continental dealers as being the genuine stamp, and as bearing evidence of that by remaining still attached to the original paper band which enclosed the newspapers franked by the stamp. These productions are undoubted forgeries. Their shades of yellow vary from lemon to orange, as in the 1 kreuzer arms, and they are obliterated by a genuine post mark (or at least one apparently so). Such an obliteration can be easily procured from a friend employed in the post-office, and no doubt the person who seeks to profit by this fraud, has taken every means to aid his deception. The address is to a lady at Pressnitz,* and the band of paper is conspicuous for the absence of any other post-mark than the one defacing the stamp; no trace therefore exists of the packet having been delivered through any post-office, an omission really fatal to the success of this scheme. No doubt, after this blot has been pointed out, the defect will be remedied. It is therefore necessary to examine the stamp itself. The real Mercuries, both rose and yellow, are from the die of the blue, and except in colour are absolutely identical with it. Here then, at once, is a definite standard to appeal to—one within every amateur's reach. On placing one of the forgeries, now under notice, side by side with a blue Mercury, and closely inspecting the groundwork of wavy irregular lines, in the upper right-hand corner of each, the

* It may aid collectors in discovering these falsities to give the exact address, which is as follows—'Nanette Steinschneider, Pressnitz.

discrepancy will appear distinctly visible; the lines are fewer, coarser, and wider apart in the forgery, and an attentive examination will reveal other small differences, in detail, all over the stamp, quite definite enough to demonstrate two dies: a fact, which once arrived at, is final. There are a few copies of the rose, also from the same die, now being offered at high prices. A like analysis will detect them readily. While on this subject, it is as well to mention that the most plausible deception in vogue is made by changing a genuine blue Mercury into a yellow colour by chemical agency—a matter very easily effected. This can always be detected with certainty now; the chemicals affect the paper and the lines of engraving in a manner which a comparison of the two, a changed and an unchanged copy, under a magnifier, will at once reveal, and by no resort to chemicals can this effect be prevented. It is as well the knavish race of forgers should know that their doings are quite patent, and nothing do they dread so much as a public exposure of the trick; this touches them in their tenderest point—the pocket. It is reported in Paris that the red Mercury (*poncean*) and the yellow are about to be reprinted from the original dies.

DENMARK.—A curious difference may be observed in the 4 skilling envelopes of this country; in those first issued the figure at the bottom of the oval is a 4 simply, very soon an s was added to the die, and the present envelope bears 4 s. The hue of the earlier ones is a more orange-red than the later, which are bright vermilion: those marked 4 are very scarce and will become, no doubt, one of the desiderata in all collections.

NATAL.—The dies of the first issue for this colony appear to have fallen under the control of some person who has struck off a number of reprints, on a much thinner and brighter coloured paper than that originally employed. Those noticed to this period are—

| | |
|------------|------------------|
| One penny | blue. |
| Threepence | pink. |
| Sixpence | green. |
| Ninepence | buff. |
| Shilling | a bright yellow. |

This reprint will not lessen the value of the

genuine old issue, but is, in itself, comparatively worthless.

And now for a few queries on a practical point of great importance to all amateurs. Everyone has felt the difficulty of finding a proper adhesive mixture to use for mounting stamps; of course, no one of any experience permits a drop of paste to touch a stamp. A very fine collection, seen some two years ago, was utterly ruined by the use of paste; either it does not keep, or the alum added to it as a preservative, destroys the stamp—the alternative choice of evils is most annoying. Most people use gum arabic, which requires great nicety in preparation, and extreme care in use; a drop touching the surface of a stamp is very unsightly, and so is the trace of any exuding around a stamp. Mixed with a little colourless spirit, it keeps best, and is most solvent and fluid to the brush. This, after all, is the best preparation for general use, but a touch of it destroys India paper, it soaks through to the upper surface, and completely spoils the stamp. The best thing to use for India proofs, seems to be a paste made with the flour of rice, this does not affect India paper, and is adhesive, while gum does not effectually stick to this kind of paper. If any of your correspondents will kindly communicate the results of their experience, for the common benefit of all, they may assist many who are now feeling the difficulty alluded to.*

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Boys' Agency Circular. Horsham: Laders.

This useful little publication, *only a half-penny*, proposed to appear once a month, is

* [Our own method of affixing stamps in albums we think in most respects superior to any other we know of. We make two folds in a small slip of the adhesive paper enfolding a sheet of postage stamps, sticking that part where the two ends meet to the reverse of the stamp, the back of the slip can then be easily and conveniently fastened to the page destined for its reception. The grand advantage of this contrivance is that one stamp can be readily extracted to make way for a better, or for any other reason, without in the slightest degree either being injured itself or tearing the album. An unused specimen could evidently be managed in like manner through its own gluten; but, in that case, there it is, and there it must remain, at the risk of utter destruction.—ED.]

intended to afford a medium for the disposal, purchase, or interchange of single stamps, or complete collections, as well as coins and other objects of fancy. The first number contains numerous advertisements to that effect, reviews of two postage magazines, of which we had never previously heard, a reasonable amount of mis-spelling, and the commencement of what promises to be a most outrageously sensational tale, by a gentleman whose services the editor congratulates himself on having secured for some months to come, rejoicing in the romantic appellation of Lisle Arcadine.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

MAKE HASTE.—A Breton lately put a postscript to his letter to a fellow-countryman in the metropolis, to the effect that as the letter was important and ought to be delivered with more than usual promptitude, he had affixed a double number of postage stamps!

NO CHANGE.—'Why do you always put 80 centimes stamps on your letters to me?' wrote a country correspondent to his friend in Paris, a clerk in an American house, 'the postage to the provinces is only 20 centimes.' The wise Parisian's excuse was that no others were used in his office.

A NOVEL SUBSCRIPTION of 192 foreign and colonial stamps was placed on one of the collection-plates at Christchurch, on Sunday afternoon last, by a lad about 10 years of age, in aid of the Melanesian missions. The stamps are offered for sale, on behalf of the fund, in another column.—*Adelaide (South Australia) Express.*

BARREL STAMPS.—The latest proposal to extend the use of adhesive stamps emanates from the United States Commissioners of Inland Revenue, who have suggested that the tax on malt should be collected by means of adhesive stamps, printed on insoluble parchment paper, and affixed to casks of beer; the cancelling to be done by the seller, in the same way as the stamps on packs of cards are defaced in this country.

ENVELOPE PACKET STAMPS.—The postage stamps of most of the minor German states were until lately manufactured at Berlin. The envelope stamps were made up in packets of 100; the contents of the packet are stated on the outside, thus '100 couverts à $\frac{1}{2}$ n. gr.,' and a tasty circular label is stuck on bearing the Prussian spread-eagle in the centre, surmounted by the inscription KOENIG. PREUSS. STAATS DRUCKEREI. BERLIN. The label is printed in different colours.

WHY MOLDO-WALLACHIA IS CALLED ROUMANIA.—In the congress at Paris, in 1856, it was decided that the provinces of Moldavia and Wallachia should never be united, but their inhabitants evaded this provision by electing one person—prince John Alexander Couza—Hospodar of both. In 1861, the great powers recognised the union, and appointed that the provinces should be hereafter styled Roumania, a name which has often been applied to them. This name appears on the current stamp as *Romana*. [See vol. ii., p. 42, *S. C. M.*]

NO WONDER.—Some little time back the postal em-

ployés of Algeria were in an uproar. A frightful stamp appeared on a letter caricaturing the august face of the Emperor. The individual that had affixed this scandalous libel was discovered, who affirmed that he had purchased it, with many similar ones which he produced, in a French colony where they were current. The postmaster of Algeria put the unfortunate in custody, and sent the stamps to Paris to be laid before the authorities. They proved to be the impressions of New Caledonia!

HOW NEWSPAPERS ARE ACCOMMODATED IN CHICAGO.—The *Chicago Republican*, in giving an account of the post-office in that city, says: Publishers of newspapers are furnished with a programme of the hours when the mails close, and a list of the various post-offices along the line of road over which every railroad extends that leaves Chicago. These publishers bag their own papers, and it often happens when pressed for time, that they send their bags to the train, instead of passing them through the post-office. The post-office provides them with sacks, and such transits are at their own risk.

SALE AT THE DEAD-LETTER OFFICE.—The curiosities of the mail service will be well shown by the annual auction of the dead-letter office, which commenced last week. The schedule of articles to be disposed of comprises almost everything of personal wear or ornament, the latter, however, predominating, such as jewellery of every description, watches, chains, rings, lockets, &c., &c., makes the bulk of the catalogue. There was even a gas-burner miscarried through the mails; any quantity of tobacco, and hair-brushes, and patent medicines, have met a like fate. Nobody has any idea of the queer uses to which the mails are put until they glance over the revelations of the dead-letter office.—*Canada Paper*.

ON TUESDAY, the 20th February, at the ripe old age of eighty-one, died John Thompson, who, for more than half a century, ranked at the head of British wood-engravers. He was the pupil of Branston, and was much associated with the late William Harvey in the engraving of his drawings. Most of Stothard's delightful fancies were engraved by him, so were the whole of the cuts in Mulready's *Vicar of Wakefield*. Maclise's Britannia on the Bank of England notes, was his work; and he spent more than five months in cutting in relief, on brass, the postage stamp designed by Mulready. The principal illustrations, if not the whole of them, of Yarrell's works on Natural History were engraved by him. All his life he was a real artist in his work, and never became a mere manufacturer of wood-cuts. During his lifetime he presented to the South Kensington Museum a fine and complete series of illustrations of the art of wood-engraving, and for some years directed the class of female students of wood-engraving of the art school at Kensington.—*Athenæum*.

MANUFACTURE OF UNITED STATES STAMPS.—The contract for furnishing the stamps of the United States was given, in 1861, to the National Bank Note Company, which now annually supplies 220,000,000 more stamps than in the first year of the contract. During 1865 the company has furnished the government with 400,000,000 stamps, and the demand has frequently exceeded a million-and-a-half per diem. The following will be read with interest.

The largest number ever delivered in one day was 5,923,895. The consumption of stamps of different values may be understood from a statement of the proportions manufactured in the month of March last, when there were delivered to the government, of

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| 1 cent stamps..... | 165,200 |
| 2 cent do. | 14,477,250 |
| 3 cent do. | 85,933,850 |
| 5 cent do. | 375,340 |
| 10 cent do. | 10,000,640 |
| 12 cent do. | 372,900 |
| 24 cent do. | 480,300 |
| 30 cent do. | 140,650 |
| 90 cent do. | 19,490 |

Total.....111,965,620

The value represented by these stamps is 3,207,199 dollars, 50 cents. The same writer says that the entire number supplied by the National Bank Note Company up to the present time is one billion three hundred millions. To meet a demand so vast, the presses are sometimes run night and day, and to avoid error in accounts, a daily balance of business is struck. In furnishing this immense number—representative of a value of 40,000,000 dollars—not a single loss involving censure to the company has occurred, and the stamps are printed, perforated, gummed, and packed (for delivery from the company's office to all the United States post-offices) for 12 cents a thousand.

POSTAL SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES.—The Postmaster-General of the United States reports that the mail service in operation at the close of the fiscal year ending 30th of June, 1865, embraced 6,012 routes of the aggregate length of 142,340 miles. The aggregate miles of transportation are stated at 57,093,494, and the cost per mile was 11½ cents by railroad, 14½ cents by steamboat, 10 cents by celerity, &c. The number of letters conveyed in the mails in the year is estimated at 467,591,600. Of these 4,368,087 were returned to the dead-letter office, including 566,097 army and navy letters. Deducting 1,156,401 letters returned to writers, or held as valuable, the total number lost or destroyed was 2,352,424, or one in every 200 mailed for transmission and delivery. Fully three-fourths of the letters returned as dead fail to reach the parties addressed through faults of the writers, so that the actual losses from irregularities of service and casualties ordinary and incidental to the war did not exceed one in every 800 of the estimated number intrusted to the mails. The returns of dead letters from cities are largely in excess of proportions based upon population. To them special efforts have been directed to secure the most efficient service, and it is believed improvements in operation, chiefly that of free delivery, will diminish the number of undelivered letters at offices in densely-populated districts. The receipts of the department for the year were in excess of the expenditure, but in the now current year the expenditure, allowing for the re-opening of Southern offices, is estimated at 18,768,000 dollars, leaving a deficiency of 1,200,000 dollars. The Postmaster-General recommends several changes in the conduct of the business of the department. He recommends that stamped envelopes be charged but at the price of the stamp, and that 'request envelopes,' that is, envelopes which have been purchased from the post-office having a request printed on them that they be returned if not called for in a certain time, be so returned without additional postage. He also recommends that pre-paid letters shall be restored to the owners free of postage, and that letters may be forwarded from one office to another at the request of the party addressed without extra charge. He states that under the present system the cost of advertising letters which are subsequently sent to the dead-letter office is 60,000 dollars, and he recommends the repeal of the law giving the advertising to

the paper having the largest circulation, and thinks that the mode of advertising should be left discretionary with the Postmaster-General. He states the loss to the department, which is the result of the franking privilege, at 2,000,000 dollars, estimating that this would accrue, if free matter was charged with existing postage rates, over and above the annual appropriations therefor. Although the Postmaster-General does not think the time yet come for a general reduction in the rates of postage, he confidently looks forward to it shortly, and now thinks that new postal arrangements should be made with foreign countries, by which the rates should be materially decreased.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TELEGRAPH STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Your correspondent, D. J. P., advocates in your last number the admission of telegraph stamps into postage-stamp albums. I cannot think that it would be well to include them. If an exception is made in favour of one class of outsiders, no one can say how many other classes may not be ultimately admitted. A successful effort has been made by collectors in this country to exclude from their collections the shoals of essays which but a few months since were so freely offered for sale; and it was most necessary that a stand should be made against the recognition of these impostors. Any person who devotes himself to the collection of legitimate postage stamps alone has his work cut out. The number of emissions is constantly on the increase, and the majority of collectors must have quite enough to do to secure specimens of all of them. The difficulty of obtaining the rarer varieties is also increasingly felt in spite of the energy and competition amongst dealers. The plea for the admission of telegraph stamps might be so widened and adapted as to include all possible species of stamps. They are all typical or representative of something—of commerce, law, or patent medicines—on all of which it may be easy to say something high-sounding and sentimental. It may indeed be very true that every existing class of stamp possesses a certain degree of interest, but without contesting the point whether or not postage labels exceed them in this quality, the mere expense of collecting them *all* is a sufficient argument against having anything to do with them. As for telegraph stamps in particular, they may be few enough now, though there are more than D. J. P. imagines; but it is very likely that as time goes on they will largely increase in number.

Protesting against the admission of any but postage stamps into our albums,

I am, sir, yours respectfully,

Penzance.

LIMITATION.

THE BRITISH GUIANA STAMPS, ETC.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Your correspondent in last month's magazine would be glad to know what Fentonian meant by a quadrangle and a rectangle. His wish can be gratified by referring to Ogilvie's Imperial Dictionary, where under the respective words he will find a drawing of each figure. Whether Dr. Ogilvie be right or wrong, the disciples of Euclid may determine. I am however indebted to your correspondent for directing my attention to the fact, which had escaped my observation, that none of the provisional Guiana stamps are exactly square, the sides being formed by ten of the devices, including corners, while the top and bottom have but nine of them,

The inscription on the one-centavo New Granada, which puzzles Mr. Taylor, is undoubtedly the motto of the country, LIBERTAD Y ORDEN. The latter word is quite plain on my stamp, and with a previous knowledge of the word to be sought for, it is not difficult to decipher all but the first letter of LIBERTAD, which letter, as well as the conjunctive 'y,' seems either lost in the deep colouring or left to the imagination.

Clifton.

FENTONIAN.

[A correspondent from Cambridge favours us with precisely similar and corroborative reasons for accepting the motto alluded to.—Ed.]

LITHOGRAPHED SPANISH STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I have perused the article in the magazine on the Spanish official stamps of 1855, and think it singular that the two varieties enumerated have so long escaped observation. I have had by me some time three of the kind mentioned out of the four, viz., the $\frac{1}{2}$ onza, 1 onza, and the libra; and can testify to several of the differences described between the lithograph and die print. My 1 onza and libra are postmarked, the former with the Luzon postmark, and I believe the latter likewise, but the cancelling is much smeared, rendering it rather obscure.

I have appended an account of several differences existing, which, should you deem worthy of insertion, will, I think, greatly assist the collector in determining the two kinds, as they do not appear in the account given in the magazine.

I am Sir, yours obediently,

J. J. M.

Westminster.

The additional differences between the lithographed and the die-printed media onza are as follows—

LITHOGRAPH.

1. Rather coarse paper.
2. Arch in castle on left hand large and broad; turrets hardly visible.
3. Lion badly formed, tail does not touch small centre oval.
4. Upper part of inner oval encircling the quarterings is almost pointed in the part where the vertical line touches it.
5. Left-hand side of crown depressed.
6. There is a small dot after MEDIA.
7. A at the end of ONZA is rather pointed and nearly touches the collar.
8. The band encircling the quarterings is nearly the same size on each side.

DIE PRINT.

1. Smooth paper.
2. Arch small, and turrets clearly defined.
3. Lion clearly formed, tail touches centre oval.
4. Inner oval is perfectly oval.
5. Not so.
6. None.
7. The A is not near the collar, and is square at the top.
8. The left side of the upper part is very much thinner than the corresponding side on the right.

The same differences exist in the una onza as stated in paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8; likewise—

The A after ONZA is pointed, and touches ornament in collar.

In the die print the A is not pointed but square, and does not touch the collar.

The una libra has the same differences as the media onza as stated in paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8. But

1. In the lithograph there is no dot after libra.
2. The A after LIBRA is much longer than the R, and the R leans to the left.

1. The die print has a dot after libra.
2. Top of the A is square, and the R is in its proper position.

THE 'MULREADY' IN RHYME.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Allow me to call your attention to a laughable description of the Mulready envelope, which appears in the *Ingoldsby Legends*, in the piece called 'A row in an omnibus (box),' and which is worthy, I think, of a place in your magazine. After the account of the disturbance in the theatre the manager sits down to write a complaint

to the *Neies*, of the way in which he had been treated, and then—

‘The manager rings,

And the prompter springs

To his side in a jiffy, and with him he brings

A set of those odd-looking envelope things,

Where Britannia (who seems to be crucified) flings

To her right and her left, funny people with wings,

Amongst elephants, quakers, and Catabaw kings ;

And a taper and wax,

And small Queen’s heads in packs.

Which, when notes are too big you are to stick on
their backs.’

Allow me also, Mr. Editor, to thank you for the very interesting magazine which, now for more than three years, I have had the pleasure of reading.

And believe me, sir, yours very respectfully,

Blackheath.

D. C.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. P. GOULD, Newport, U.S.—The 5 cents and 13 c. of the Sandwich Islands, as well as the variety of the latter which you specify, were noticed in an article last month.—In reply to one of the queries in your communication we refer you to the answer to our correspondent, ‘Inquirer,’ below.—To another we would remark, that perfection cannot be expected in this world, neither, in respect to what you ask about, in any other. The nearest approach to it is either in London or Paris.—The concluding notice in the last page of our magazine supplement answers the remaining question.

E. J. W., London.—We believe the word ‘pfennige’ will always be found on the scarlet $\frac{1}{2}$ s. g. Prussians. The word, as was once remarked by a German correspondent, is spelt with or without an *n* indifferently. *Sechs* containing one more letter than *six* left no room for the longer word.—It is incorrectly represented by Mount Brown in his fourth edition as on coloured, and in his fifth as on tinted paper. We have never found it otherwise than on white, and so is it noted in Levrault’s usually correct catalogue: that gentleman, however, chronicles the green 4 pfennige as on white paper also; but our own, and all we ever remember seeing both originals and reprints are on very slightly tinted paper.—In our translation of Dr. Magnus’s valuable article on watermarks, page 33 of this year’s magazine, you will observe the correct means of identifying the earlier series of the two stamps in question from that of 1858 or the reprints. There is no other way of distinguishing the *green* specimens, the same die having been employed; but the *reds* of 1850 are generally of a deeper colour, sometimes almost brown from age. This peculiarity in some scarlet inks of fading in course of time to a red-brown is eminently noticeable in the 40 c. French colonies, and some of the Newfoundland bridges.

F. H., Bridgewater.—The very handsome large stamp you describe as coming over postmarked on a Jamaica letter is the shilling receipt stamp of that island. Many instances of its postal employment are on record, and we have more than once in these pages insisted on its right to admission in even strictly postage stamp collections. The motto is ‘*Indus uterque serviet uni*,’ meaning, ‘Both the Indies shall obey one power.’

A SUBSCRIBER, Cambridge.—Thanks for your satisfactory corroboration of our interpretation of the motto on the one centavo stamp of New Granada.

L. L. L.—The British Honduras set is fully described and a specimen engraved in our last month’s number.

J. H. R., Scarborough.—The nature of the Edinburgh and Leith locals is fully stated in our January number, when they were first described. The low value would alone preclude the idea of its being a postal issue.—We know of two varieties only of the 1 cent United States envelope; viz., on white and on buff paper. The current 3 cents envelope is brown, and the 6 cents mauve. Refer to *New Stamps* for account of others.—For your query *re* Prussian 4 pfennige and 6 pfennige, we refer you to the initials E. J. W. above.—The 3 s. g. rose-coloured Brunswick imperforate appeared nearly three years previously to the lighter hued perforated variety contemporary with the lately superseded yellow 1 s. g.—There is no Bermuda fourpenny or Belgian 50 centimes postage stamp.—The variation of colour in the perforated Luxembourg has taken place in the 1 c., 10 c., and 25 c. only.—The old Bergeдорfs have been forged, not reprinted.—An infinitesimal 9 is now on the Great British blues; the varieties marked 7 or 8 came out about two years ago. You may get them from old letters.—The postal authorities at Somerset House decided in October last to discontinue printing stamps on coloured papers.—The old Lubeck stamps have been very closely imitated by forgers.—The white rims round the black Victoria sixpenny seem to constitute distinct varieties. Even in case of a new 3d. and 6d. for Victoria the set would not be uniform.—The last packet of stamps we received from New Zealand, including the twopenny on tinted paper, were watermarked with a star, not N.Z.—We have never met with a Western Australian with swan as watermark. Variety of colour appears to be the chief intent of the manager of the postal issues of that colony. We do not coincide with your opinion on their last change being an *ugly* one. The hue of the fourpenny at all events is very pleasing.—We cannot account for the different form of the crown on the green $\frac{1}{2}$ s. g. Brunswick from that on all the others. Another sort again is observable on the current issue.—The 1 k., 3 k., and 5 k. Russian are not printed in *fast* colours; consequently cannot stand water. We do not see why you should have such a fancy for washing your stamps; you had better let them be.—Your Californian and United States envelope is of the same character as those enumerated page 179 in our last volume.—Your next remark is noticed elsewhere.—The Bremen 1 grote stamps are non-postal.

PHILATELIST.—We prefer the album of Moens to that of Lallier ourselves in *most* respects. There is an advertized new edition of the former, and a published one of the latter. For a moderately copious collection we decidedly recommend that of Oppen reviewed last month. Stamps arranged therein do not expose one’s poverty as in the former two publications, where any hiatus is so conspicuous.—The collection of perforated and non-perforated varieties must be left to individual fancy, and also means of obtaining them, which in some cases require much expenditure. Lallier chronicles several nonentities. We understand they are expunged in the new edition, but we have never had an opportunity of seeing one. Either of the three can be procured from our publisher.—The catalogue of M. Berger-Levrault is about to be published in a French dress; but has not yet appeared in an English one. We must live in hopes.

INQUIRER.—The market value of postage stamps, like that of all articles of *virtù*, depends entirely on their rarity at the time of purchase. Our own 1 cuarto Madrid bear cost 10/.—The date of issue for the green paper Natal is 1857.

W. D. A., Stoke Newington.—Thanks for your information respecting the correct values of the Levant stamps, of which we avail ourselves elsewhere.

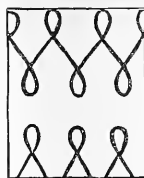
POSTAGE-STAMP PAPER & WATERMARKS.

(Continued from page 50).

SARDINIA AND ITALY.—The first three sets of Sardinian stamps, of which the second is embossed on coloured paper, as well as the impressions of the fourth series with embossed profile in coloured frame and white inscription, have no watermark. These latter are on white paper, and were at first emitted for Piedmont, afterwards, for all the northern provinces of the kingdom of Italy (and since November, 1862, for those of Naples and Sicily). The provisional stamps of nearly similar type, employed for some months in the Neapolitan provinces, were alike devoid of watermark.

Those of the 1863 series, coloured portrait or figure on white glazed paper, comprising the 2 centesimi stamp afterwards issued, bear a large crown for watermark. The coloured essays of this set—at least those of the 5 centesimi and 2 lire, which alone we have been able to see—are on paper with the same watermark. Respecting the essays proposed for competition, we have some facts worth mentioning. On the green 15 centesimi of M. Sparre is watermarked the Savoy cross in shield surmounted by a crown. The same is found on a 40 c. blue essay. On another of the 15 c. a small crown is indented on the back, the use of which is evidently to serve as a watermark, and which on that account we signalize. Another essay is on very thin paper.

SPAIN.—The stamps of Spain were, from 1850 to 1854 inclusive, on white paper. The later emissions, since 1860, are tinted. Coloured paper has been employed for the CORREO OFICIAL issues only. Watermarks are found only on the series used from 1855 to 1859; but here must be particularly distinguished three separate sets. That of 1855 was on bluish paper. Two rows of loops, disposed as in the annexed figure, form the watermark. On the upper



part is represented the entire design, but in the actual stamp only a part of it is seen, disposed as shown in the lower part of our cut.

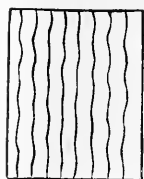
The 1856 set was on yellowish white (rather rougher) paper. The watermark is

formed by diagonal lines cutting each other almost at right angles, and forming lozenges by means of the intersection.



The set of 1857, and succeeding years, was printed on white hot-pressed paper, unwatermarked.

Attention to the watermarks of the first two emissions of this series is the readiest means of distinguishing them. This circumstance has long been known to amateurs; and the like arrangement is observable in the Cuba and Porto Rico stamps of the same period, whose design is precisely similar, and differs from the Spanish in monetary designation only, the colonial real plata being the currency.



On some coloured 4 cuartos essays of this same series are found, as watermark, undulating lines vertically parallel, about the tenth of an inch apart. Some Cuban essays of the same series are on laid paper.

PORTUGAL.—No watermark on the stamps of this country, which are all embossed and printed in colour on thin white paper.

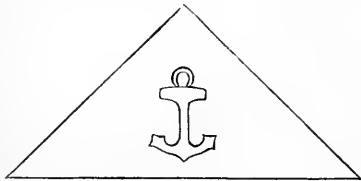
ST. HELENA.—The so long solitary sixpence, first emitted in 1859, denticulated or otherwise, is watermarked with the six-pointed star, which we shall meet with again on the stamps of a great number of the English colonies. The impressions of 1863, penny and fourpenny unperforated, and shilling perforated (as well as the current perforated penny and fourpenny), fabricated by means of the sixpenny plate, colour alone being changed, and value ink-printed at the base of the stamp, bear



two capital C's surmounted by the royal crown of England. (See Malta). The sixpenny still retains its original watermark.

SIERRA LEONE.—The stamp of this country (whether perforated or not), and those of Liberia, are unwatermarked.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—Researches after the watermark of these stamps offer great difficulties. We have, however, found an anchor very conspicuous on some of them,



but perfectly indistinguishable on the greater number. The lithographed stamps are on laid paper. The shilling stamp, the sole representative (at the time when the learned doctor penned these remarks) of the new rectangular series, bears the crown and double C of the Maltese stamp. The paper is glazed.

NATAL.—The embossed stamps of the original series are on coloured paper. [Having been censured for not doing so before, we proceed to reproduce here some supplementary remarks on the stamps of this country, and the annotations annexed at the end of Dr. M.'s article, relative to the stamps of Finland, Wurtemberg, and other places already chronicled, before continuing our English version. He had at first noted the penny Natal alone as watermarked with the star, mentioned above, under the heading of St. Helena, but found occasion afterwards for modifying his assertion. Having been shown by M. Baillieu a blue threepenny with the same watermark that had been three years in a collection, he observes as follows]. It is probable that there have been three issues of the stamps of the second series; the first was on white paper with a star—one penny brown, threepence blue, and, probably, sixpence lilac-grey. The threepence and sixpence having been first omitted, as we have been assured, it is by no means astonishing that these stamps passed soonest out of use. The second issue was on semi-white paper

without watermark—one penny dark-brown, threepence blue, sixpence lilac-grey. The current or third set is on paper with the double C and crown, consisting of the penny dark-red, and sixpence mauve. The threepence blue, will probably soon follow.

FINLAND (see page 18).—M. Herpin has called our attention to an envelope on laid paper, doubly stamped—viz., both on the front with a square, and on the flap with an oval impression—whose watermark is a large fleur-de-lis. M. Regnard signalizes the same peculiarity, but on ordinary paper, not laid. Is it the same? We had purposely neglected reporting this fact, thinking, as we still do, that the paper was of French fabrication, and the circumstance without interest for stamp-history; stars, and not fleurs-de-lis, being invariably the watermark of the country. Numbers of envelopes of this sort might be cited, but all unofficial.

SWISS CONFEDERATION (see page 33).—According to M. Regnard, it is the 5 rappen brown of the third Federal series that has been met with unwatermarked, and not the blue 10 r., as we were erroneously informed.

WURTEMBERG (see page 34).—Chronicling the first issue of the second series, arms with orange thread, we omitted mentioning that M. Moens had indicated this fact. The obliterating marks on those we possess testify that these stamps were three years in use, perhaps concurrently with the unthreaded ones; and not for a short time only as the *Collectionneur* would have it. Posthumous threaded essays of the 1 kreuzer are in course of circulation, two of which notably differ in colour, but the third of a brown hue is more like the real stamp, which, however, is rather tawny than brown. But another peculiarity distinguishes them, the essay having a vertical blue, not a transverse red thread. These stamps are evidently reprints, and we are informed the threaded paper is Bavarian. They are the products of the large manufactory of so-styled 'German essays' which have recently started up to encumber all the most important collections—essays printed indeed by means of official plates, both on paper and cardboard, with a luxurious variety of colour.

DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES (see page 35).—

As M. Regnard has remarked with reason, the first series of Moldavian stamps was issued at first on coloured laid paper, at the period of the Crimean war. We have met with some in M. de Laplante's collection. The second issue of them is on ordinary paper. The second series, as M. Regnard again justly observes, was at first on very slightly, but incontestibly, bluish-tinted paper; we have just met with the 40 paras blue, the type is that with nearly straight horns. The lithographed series, with the head of Prince Couza, besides the already signalized varieties of hue and design, presents a new peculiarity. The 2 paras orange is now on laid paper. The other values will undoubtedly soon afford a similar distinction.

IONIAN ISLES (see page 49).—We ought here to mention the facts relative to the watermark adduced by M. Regnard himself, which are so incontestibly exact as to demand reproduction. According to one version, the stamps of the Ionian isles bore three different figures in the paper; 1, 2, and 4, corresponding to their values in oboli. The systematic hostility of the Ionians to the English protectorate having almost nullified the employment of stamps bearing the Queen's effigy, all attention ceased to be paid to their impression which was then made on paper of no matter what watermark. According to another version, these stamps were always printed haphazard on paper watermarked or not. If the former of these two opinions were correct, an early series should be found, the watermarks of which would correspond with the values of the stamps themselves. In the second category all the values of these stamps should be met with on indiscriminate watermarks. Now all our researches demonstrate the invariability of the following characteristics. Yellow stamp, 1 obolus, no watermark.

Blue " 2 oboli, figure 2 as watermark.

Red " 4 " " 1 "

We shall receive with pleasure the explanation of the anomaly.

TUSCANY (see page 49).—We said that the stamps of the first issue were on bluish paper, with the large ducal crown for watermark; but have since found the 2 crazie

light, 6 c. dark-blue, and 4 c. green, on white paper with the same emblem. Another 2 c. is on white paper excessively thin, but it is difficult to ascertain what watermark it bears, probably a part of the ducal crown. We do not think the first three [what first three?] stamps have undergone any alteration.

MODENA (see page 50).—A solitary stamp [which?] of the duchy shows a watermark which had escaped our observation, because there existed a portion of it only on the copy in our collection. It is a large A, about an inch long, reproduced at the back of each specimen. Watermarked lines, vertical and horizontal, correspond with the boundaries of the stamps. We have not been able to discover the guiding motives for the choice of this watermark.

(To be continued).

THE STAMPS OF SARDINIA AND THE ITALIAN KINGDOM.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

THE advantages of the postal system founded by Rowland Hill were not immediately perceived by continental nations. They, perhaps, waited to watch its progress in this country before remodelling their own establishments upon it. So, whilst Brazil possessed postage stamps as early as 1843, and the United States issued its first series in 1847, Finland and the Swiss cantons alone of all Europe used stamps before 1848. Then a general move was made towards their adoption. France and Belgium were the pioneers; Austria, Prussia, Spain, and some of the German states followed; and at the end of 1850 Sardinia initiated the system in Italy.

On the 18th of November of that year, a law was enacted, introducing various changes into the administration of the post; amongst others, authorising the emission of stamps, and leaving it to a royal decree to fix their number, form, values, and colours. Such a decree was accordingly published on the 3rd December, and it was thereby declared that the issue should consist of three values—

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| 5 centesimi, | black. |
| 20 " | blue. |
| 40 " | red. |

The decree contained also a plan indicating the shape and inscription of the intended stamps—FRANCO on the left, BOLLO on the right, c^{mi} POSTE and numeral at the top, and c^{mi} and word of value at the bottom, with the effigy of the sovereign in centre. This model was adhered to, except in the alteration of c^{mi} to c, but the colour of the 40 c. was never anything but rose, though there is a reprint in magenta.

These stamps were lithographed, a mode of production affording considerable facility for forgery. They were current from the 1st of January, 1851, to the 1st of July, 1853, when they gave place to the embossed stamps of uniform colour. This change may have been caused, as a French journalist suggests, by the disgust the Piedmontese must have felt at the ghostly portrait of their king, whose head, particularly on the 5 c., he likens to that of an exhumed mummy. But more probably the reason was that a new die of his head had been engraved, which could be, and was, used for fiscal as well as for postage stamps.

The stamps of the second issue, which appeared in conformity with a royal decree of the 7th May, 1853, were printed from a compound die. The frame was separately engraved, and space was left in the centre for the introduction of the effigy. The design was identical with that of the first issue, and the colours of the two higher values remained the same, but that of the 5 c. was by the decree changed to green. Proofs of the three have lately appeared printed on rose, blue, and green cardboard, and on paper of the same colours. They *may* have remained until last year in a state of spotless cleanliness in the bureau of some official of conservative habits, but in view of the fact that Italy is the land of reprints, it seems far more reasonable to suppose that they were produced at a much later date *for exportation*.

Such an emission as this second of Sardinia resulted, as might have been foreseen, in great inconvenience both to the postal officials and the public. Its circulation lasted only a twelvemonth, for, finding that the similarity in colour of the 5 c. and the 20 c. produced (particularly at night)

frequent errors, the administrator-general of the posts, in February, 1854, urged upon the minister for foreign affairs the advisability of changing the type. This gentleman assenting to his subordinate's project, the latter, on the 13th of April following, notified to all the post-offices the emission of the third series, which consisted of the same values as the second, but differed from it in having the king's head on a white disk, and only the frame coloured. The shade of the blue was also altered from light to dark; but continental amateurs recognise both colours, and proofs of the 20 c. in green are now in three Parisian collections.

The exact time when this series came into circulation cannot be stated with certainty; but it was undoubtedly before 1855—Mount Brown's date. With the notification above named, a supply of new stamps was forwarded, but accompanied by directions that none were to be used until the exhaustion of the old issue, and this took place at a different date in different cities.

Of the three values which were repeated in the first three issues, the only one which has become common is the 20 c., which prepaid the single postage of a letter. But considering the length of time during which they were in use it seems at first sight surprising that they are not as easily obtainable as the obsolete emissions of Prussia and Austria. The explanation of their comparative scarcity, however, lies in the fact that prior to 1857 prepayment was not compulsory, and consequently not more (at a rough guess) than 35 per cent of all the letters which passed through the post were stamped. The first two issues have been reprinted, but we believe the third has not; unused specimens of the latter continue, therefore, to be of considerable rarity.

The third series remained in circulation until 1857, and meanwhile the control of the postal department had passed from the minister of foreign affairs to the minister of public works, to whom, indeed, it more properly belonged. We find, therefore, in the royal decree of the 29th November, 1857, that the change thereby made was 'upon the proposition of our minister-secretary of state for public works.' This document declared

that from the 1st of January, 1858, the postage stamps of the kingdom should be of five values and colours, that is to say—

| | |
|--------------|---------|
| 5 centesimi, | green. |
| 10 " | bistre. |
| 20 " | blue. |
| 40 " | red. |
| 80 " | yellow. |

The embossed die of the head used for the two previous issues was employed also for this one, and the pattern of the frame was the same, but instead of being embossed it was, what Dr. Gray would term, 'flat-printed.' Two other stamps of the same design, viz. :—

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| 3 lire, | bronze, |
| 15 centesimi, | blue, |

were emitted by authority of the chief of the postal department; the first on the 26th September, 1860; the second in January, 1863, in which latter year the whole series was perforated and issued in more brilliant colours. The tints of this issue vary very much. Each stamp (except the 3 lire) can show at least two shades, and one careful examiner, M. Alphonse Vidal, has enumerated ten of the 10 c. alone. It would be quite unnecessary to place this stamp in all its variety of hue in one's album, but without drawing too fine distinctions, four colours may be specified as worthy of collection, viz. :—black-brown, grey, bistre, and yellow-ochre. There is also a very light shade of the 80 c., which is generally found of a brilliant yellow.

The 15 c. blue was, of course, found to clash with the 20 c. of precisely the same design and colour. The Italian officials, by the way, seem to have a propensity to blunder in deciding on the tints of their stamps; besides the mistakes already referred to, there is also that of printing the two journal stamps in one colour. The first issued 15 c. was, as all the world knows, withdrawn after a currency of a month only, to make room for the very 'ordinary' stamp bearing the king's head to right, and the inscription (indicative of an extension of territory) POSTE ITALIANO. The new value represented a reduction which had been made in the single rate of postage. It may have been

necessary for financial purposes that this reduction should be made at the commencement of the year, which would account for the emission of the first 15 c., when, in all probability, the second was in preparation, but even though the first may have been intended to act only as a stop-gap, it is surely strange that some other colour less open to objection was not chosen.

The first issue of newspaper labels took place on the same day as that of the 3 lire (26th September, 1860). They were printed from two dies, and some specimens exist bearing the figure 2 in the centre, and CENT' UNO in the lower border; occasionally also the figure was impressed upside down, and is seldom to be found precisely in the same position in any two stamps. In like manner, on the other values of the fourth issue, the king's head is sometimes found reversed, and some specimens are entirely without it. The confusion caused by having both the journal stamps printed in one colour was remedied in 1862, by altering the 2 c. to yellow. The 2 c. black was at one time somewhat rare, but researches and reprints have multiplied copies to such an extent that they are now easily obtainable. The yellow has always been very common, and remained in use, we presume, until the emission of the current 2 c. last year.

On the same day as the first 15 c. blue was issued the 10 c. Segna Tassa came into circulation. It serves for precisely the same purpose as the 10 and 15 c. *percevoir* of France, namely, to indicate the charge made in the post-office for unpaid or insufficiently paid letters. Its colour, at first yellow, has since been changed to orange.

It was stated in number 26, of *Le Timbre Poste*, upwards of a twelvemonth since, that it was the intention of the authorities to extend the use of this stamp, and that it would consequently become necessary to issue a new stamp, inscribed SEGNA TASSE. We know not whether this intention has been carried into effect, but if so it is certainly remarkable that a new stamp, bearing the corrected inscription, has not yet appeared. What did appear, however, was an essay, of which an engraving was given in the number to which we referred. The design of this (in

all probability) unsuggested stamp was a representation of a man on horseback riding across country, within an oblong frame, inscribed above SEGNA TASSE, and having a circle containing the value on each side.

To return: the provinces of Northern Italy, together with the whole of the Southern peninsula and Sicily, having been added to Victor Emmanuel's kingdom, it became necessary to have a new set of stamps bearing evidence on their face of their extended range of currency. Essays were accordingly submitted by M.M. Sparre, Pellas, and others, engravings of which have appeared in this magazine. The design of M. Pellas was remarkable for its beauty, and, indeed, it is difficult to understand why it was rejected; it formed a proof that Italian artists were capable of conceiving a worthy device, but the remaining essays were not remarkable for excellence. When the demand for essays rose to its height, they were produced on paper and in colours of all possible shades, but M. Pellas's production has only been printed in its six original colours—blue, black, green, carmine, yellow, and violet. It was not definitely rejected until June, 1863; some months after the appearance of the second 15 c., which was supposed, by English collectors at least, to form the vanguard of the new series.

Ultimately, Messrs. De la Rue and Co. were commissioned to prepare the design for this series; and on the 29th October, 1863, a royal decree was issued, appointing the 1st of December of that year as the day on which the emission should take place. To every copy of this decree was appended a card, headed FRANCOBOLLI POSTALI, 1863, and containing the eight stamps forming the series, each with a neat line ruled round and the word SAGGIO (specimen) printed across. At the foot was the signature IL MINISTRO DEL LAVORI PUBBLICI (the minister of public works) L. F. MENABREA. The design of these stamps is finely engraved, and the portrait of the king is more true than that of the Belgian monarch on the new issue for that country. The effect of the tracery in the 1 c. and 2 c. newspaper stamps is also excellent, nor are the colours unsuited to the character of the designs; too decided hues

might mar the effect, but the delicate shades adopted enhance it.

The values and colours (including the 2 c., which was not issued until March, 1865) are as follows—

| | | |
|--------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1 centesimo, | sea-green | } for newspapers. |
| 2 centesimi, | brown | |
| 5 | „ slate-green. | |
| 10 | „ dull-red. | |
| 15 | „ blue. | |
| 30 | „ chocolate. | |
| 40 | „ rose. | |
| 60 | „ lilac. | |
| 2 lire, | scarlet. | |

To this list must be added the metamorphosed 15 c., which now does duty as a 20 c. stamp, but which we should like to see relieved from service altogether. The mysterious points or dots with which the 15 (or 20) c. is decorated have been already sufficiently dwelt upon, the mere mention of them is therefore sufficient.

Besides the orthodox emissions, there are also the hybrid newspaper stamps. These were impressed on the blank sheets on which the journals were to be printed, just as they are on English papers. There is said to have been an issue of these so early as 1849, and consisting of eight values—1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, and 15 c., but we think that the 1 and 2 c. are the only values which can be relied on as existing. The design of those now in use is very simple, being only a double circle inscribed PERIODICI FRANCHI, and enclosing the value. Turin possesses, however, a stamp peculiar to itself, consisting of a single-lined circle with STAMPATI FRANCHI on its inner edge, c. 1 (or 2) R. POSTE TORINO in the centre. The impressions are printed in red.

It was proposed that in place of them an adhesive stamp should be prepared and put in circulation; and the number of *Le Timbre Poste* which contained a cut of the wonderful SEGNA TASSE essay, contained also a cut of a still more wonderful essay for the projected newspaper stamp. It was rectangular in shape, and in the central circle was the profile of a woman, for which a Billingsgate lady might have been the model, and which was intended to symbolise Italy; PERIODICI in the upper, and FRANCHI in the lower margin; c. 1 at sides, and floral ornament in

spandrels. However, as the editor of the Belgian journal remarks, if a movable stamp is required to replace the impressions, the 1 centesimo will surely answer the purpose.

There still remain for mention the 'administration' stamps. These are large labels which are known by the name of *Bolli Gommati* (gummed stamps). They serve—for what do you suppose, kind reader?—for official letters, possibly, but if so, this is only their secondary use; their principal employment being to seal the sacks of letters so as to prevent them from being opened during transit. For this purpose English clerks use wax, and we may be sure that German officials



show an equal partiality for this material, but the Italians require a large adhesive label. This stamp, which is represented by the annexed cut, bears the arms of Savoy, crowned and supported by flags, in a circle inscribed AMMINISTRAZIONE DELLE POSTE ITALIANE; the corners are filled in with a Greek pattern; colour magenta.

When it was known that the department intended to issue a stamp of this class a number of essays sprung into existence. No one knows whether they were ever actually submitted to the inspection of the authorities, and it does not much matter. There was considerable variety, but little excellence of design. Some were simple black inscribed circles, others bore the arms of Savoy on a large scroll inscribed POSTE ITALIANE TRASPORTO DISPACCI. Some resembled the accepted stamp. Others, again, bore the king's head in a circle; and notably amongst these last was a set with the effigy on the current postage stamps in the centre. One, perhaps the handsomest of the lot, contained an emblematic figure of Italy seated, holding a crown in her right and a book in her left hand, with a ship and locomotive in the background. These essays were printed in a variety of colours; some were perforated,

others were not; some were square, and some round, with scalloped edges. But it would be waste of space to catalogue at length the multifarious essays for stamps which after all scarcely come within the pale.

We have now only to add that in 1818 sheets of paper were impressed in the Turin post-office with a stamp representing a boy on horseback blowing a trumpet, in an octagonal frame, with value, 15, 25, or 50 c., in the lower margin; the size of the stamp was about $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. by $\frac{3}{4}$ in. It is affirmed that it had nothing to do with the prepayment of the postal rate, although the paper was called at the time of its production *carta postale bollata*. This question, however, we must leave to the decision of our foreign friends, who have greater facilities than we for the investigation of such points. We are indebted to them for much of what has been given above, and in this respect we are but 'gatherers of other men's flowers.' It was thought impossible that the foregoing paper should be other than a compilation, depending as it does upon facts which those who have preceded us in research have elucidated.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

In reference to philately may be adopted, with all necessary modification, the celebrated motion of a not-yet-forgotten demagogue, which must have electrified a large portion of the House, to the effect that 'the prerogative of the crown *has* increased, *is* increasing, and ought to be curtailed.' Notwithstanding that the secession from the ranks of philatelists of some distinguished amateurs is a sad reality, we may yet congratulate ourselves that the collection of postage stamps 'has increased, is increasing, and ought to be encouraged;' and this would seem the opinion of the acting postal officials, from the frequency and variety of their issues. One scarcely has time to catalogue and arrange a series of impressions in albums, ere new candidates for admission start forth to claim space in the exhibition. The territory whose recent emissions head the present list,

but a short while since favoured us with a perforated series by way of variety, having previously entirely changed the hue of one impression, and added a couple of novel values to its original set. The *free city*, which has proved so very free and easy in deluging our collections with falsities, forgeries, and humbings of all kinds, certainly owed collectors some amends for her persevering appeals to the credulity of the unwary; and we are bound to own that her recent emission of envelopes goes far to redeem her lost credit. After this preamble we may proceed to business, and introduce our first engraving.

HAMBURG.—From the interminable varieties of heads to right and heads to left, the eye always turned with relief to the pages



containing the stamps of Hamburg or their congeners. The page devoted to the emissions of the free city will now receive the addition of seven envelopes (eventually, doubtless, of ten) and one adhesive,

all of the same pattern, and which show a decided superiority over their elder brethren, though still bearing the distinctive peculiarities of their race. The improvement, however, will be scarcely appreciated on simple reference to our illustration, which merely notifies the adoption of the octagonal form and greater neatness in the inscription, without marring its distinctiveness, but cannot realize the pleasing effect produced by having the figures *embossed*, thus throwing them in advance of the castle in lieu of the original jumble. The new adhesive is of the value of $1\frac{1}{2}$ schilling, its colour, pink. The paper on which it is impressed is not so substantial as that of the other values, being of the same quality as that used for the Oldenburgs, &c., and like it, unwatermarked. The envelopes are similar in colour to their equivalent adhesives, but the tints are much brighter, this is particularly the case with respect to the $1\frac{1}{2}$ sch. Those hitherto circulated made their debut on the 1st of April last. We conclude this notice with a specification of value and colour. Black $\frac{1}{2}$ schilling, mauve $1\frac{1}{4}$ sch., pink $1\frac{1}{2}$ sch.,

orange 2 sch., blue 3 sch., green 4 sch., magenta 7 sch. We do not know the hues to be worn by the 1 sch., $2\frac{1}{2}$ sch., and 9 sch., but presume they will be identical with those of their relatives.

MONTEVIDEO.—A pair of specimens of the newly-issued stamps of this distant country are here represented. They are the 15 cen-



tesimi yellow, and the 20 centesimi rose. The other values are the 5 c. blue, and the 10 c. green. This now current series was first notified in our January number, page 9, under the head of Uruguay.

SWEDEN.—Few if any countries have 'kept on the even tenor of their way,' as far as concerns postage stamps, like Sweden. Not one of the two distinct emissions, or of the three Stockholm locals, has given any trouble to collectors, either by its rarity or any other cause. All reliable catalogues chronicle the same individuals, the sole distinction known being some trifling variations in tint. Except a few wretched imitations of the locals, the forgers themselves have scarcely tried their dishonest hands at them. In the marvellous collection lately owned by Dr. De Volpi, of Munich, there are a few first-rate proofs, and these are almost the only ones we have seen. Still, like the Hamburgs, the Swedes have always afforded an agreeable variety in our albums, and the two specimens of what may possibly be a third complete emission, retain a character of their own. The



design, as will be seen on reference to the annexed cut, closely approaches that of the brown 3 öre, the upper portion being identical, or very nearly so, with that stamp. The values and colours of the new issue are 17 öre lilac and 20 öre scarlet. These values have not heretofore been employed, and

whether they supersede others or are merely supplementary, and in the latter case do not constitute themselves the forerunners of a new emission, we are not in a position at present to decide. They are unwatermarked.

KALTBAD.—The Rigi-Kaltbad local, first noticed in the November number of our last volume, and again in the February one for the present year, is here depicted, but we know no more of its origin, purpose, and history than we did before. We can only offer it to our readers'



notice, as in duty bound with regard to every candidate for public patronage, whether eligible or ineligible.

HAITI.—The black republic now possesses two stamps, a medio real light-green having been added to the 1 real previously emitted. We trust, as 'our sable brethren' have entered upon the path of postal progress, they will not rest satisfied with their present issue, but will produce a series of stamps worthy to take rank beside the artistic emissions for the sister republic of Liberia.

FINLAND.—Annexed we give a cut of the latest novelty for this province. The stamp is printed in two colours, the band inscribed STADSPOST being red, and the remainder of the design bright-green; on white paper. That the stamp is a government issue we have no reason to doubt.



It will be observed that the new monetary denomination, PENNIA, which is abbreviated on the stamps issued a couple of months since, is here given at full length.

THURN AND TAXIS, NORTH.—A black $\frac{1}{4}$ silbergroschen, same type as the higher values of the current series, is now added to that set.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—A correspondent forwards the description and rough sketch of a stamp he states to have discovered among some old Australians, which, whether resuscitation or impostor, we judge our duty to lay before readers. Head of Queen to left, in circle, CAMBRIA NOVA AUSTRALIS in

ribbon above, POSTAGE ONE SOVEREIGN below; chocolate coloured. He does not say if postmarked. Opinions requested.

TURKEY.—The local post-office has emitted the subjoined stamp of unique appearance. The Turkish legend signifies GAZETTA TAM-GASSI CHEHIR POSTASSI, or, in plain English—'seals for the journals sent through the local post.' The value is $3\frac{1}{2}$ paras. As the 5 paras blue was said to be also for journals, we do not quite understand the reason for this new emission, but we hope to live and learn.



CUBA.—A new issue of Cuban stamps has taken place. The type is the same as that of the old issue, identical with the 1864 Spanish, but the latest arrivals bear the value in *centesimos*, and the date 1866. The emission consists of four values:—5 centesimos



lilac, 10 c. blue, 20 c. green, and 40 c. rose, upon unwatermarked white paper. The perforatory improvement which finds favour in the mother country is not adopted by her West Indian colony.

St. Kitts.—From a set of proofs of the essays proposed for adoption by this island, we described the new design, of which the subjoined cut is a representative.



VICTORIA.—*Victoria* at last! The hideous black sixpenny—peace to its manes—for we must not speak ill of the defunct, will now have the advantage, the only one it was ever likely to have, of not being readily procurable, having passed into the community of 'has-beens.' Its successor is of the same type as the recently-emitted tenpenny, colour blue, watermarked with the figure 6. It was emitted early this year. The *colour* of the threepenny has been changed from blue to lake, we are told, but have not seen one; device remains the same.

WURTEMBERG.—A correspondent wishing some information on the envelope stamps of this country, we append a table compiled from various authors and our own collection. The mention of the set with red, and the green individual without inscription may, perhaps, excite inquiry and information.

October 1st, 1862. White paper, pale-green inscription in Roman letters to right of stamp.

Rose, 3 kr.—Brown, Bellars, Moens, Levrault.

Blue, 6 kr.—Brown, Bellars, Levrault.

Light and dark blue, 6 kr.—Moens.

Brown, 9 kr.—Brown, Bellars.

Light and dark brown, 9 kr.—Levrault.

Bistre and chocolate, 9 kr.—Moens.

1863. Bluish-tinted paper, darker green inscription in smaller Egyptian characters.

3 kr. (deeper), rose; 6 kr. (deep), blue; 9 kr., brown.

Same authors, Dr. Gray with date 1862.

1865. Paper of rather deeper hue.

1 kr., green; lilac inscription to left.

3 kr., deep-rose; black " to right.

6 kr., deep-blue; yellow " "

9 kr., brown; green " "

Varieties? 3 kr., rose; 6 kr., blue; 9 kr., brown; red inscription.—Bellars and Davie.

" 1 kr., green; no inscription.

" 3 kr., rose; reverse impression coloured.

—Our collection.

" 3 kr., rose; very oblong envelope.—Our collection.

BERMUDAS.—A blue twopenny stamp of these islands has just come into circulation; design congenerical with the previous trio. BERMUDA in straight line, and value in a curve. The changes on straight lines and curves being now completely rung, we conclude the set is complete. The red has two straight, the violet two curved bands; the green a curved one above, and a straight below; and now the blue new-comer reverses this order, showing a straight above, and a curve below.

ENGLISH AND SCOTCH LOCALS.—A correspondent, wishing us to give a list of the stamps employed by the different railway delivery companies of England and Scotland, we append one extracted from *Le Timbre Poste* of M. Moens, according to the old proverb, 'that we must go abroad to hear news of home.' A full description would demand the lion's share of our magazine pages; readers must therefore be satisfied with a card of names and colours.

Caledonian, Port Patrick, & Glasgow, and S. W. Railways; grey.

Same companies; 1 penny, 2, 3, 4, 6 pence, black on white.

Caledonian Railway; 1 penny, 2, 3, 4, 6 pence, straw.

" for one newspaper only; grey.

" newspaper parcel; green.

Edinburgh & Glasgow, & N. B. Railway; *Daily Review*; lilac.

Edinburgh and Glasgow and S. Central Railways; 4 pence, green; 6 pence, pale-yellow.

Edinburgh and Glasgow and S. Central Railways; 1 penny, 2 pence, pink; 3 pence, blue.

Edinburgh and Glasgow and S. Central Railways; pink.

Edinburgh and Glasgow and S. Central Railways; *Daily Review*, red; *Courant*, red.

Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway; 1 p., yellow; 3 p., vermilion; 4 p., green.

Great North of Scotland Railway; 1 penny, pink

Inverness and Perth, and Inverness and Aberdeen Junction Railways; red on white, black on pink, yellow, and grey.

London and North Western Railway; straw.

North British Railway; for one newspaper only, green.

" *Courant*, blue and red; *Daily Review*, blue and red.

" Western Section; 2 pence, pink.

North Eastern Railway; for single newspapers only, red.

Scottish North Eastern; for one newspaper only, flesh.

Scottish North Eastern Railway; 1 penny, straw.

The North British Railway; red.

The Highland Railway; flesh, green.

In addition to these, we have before us the following emanations of private companies, all of which have been described, some figured in our magazine.

Parcel Delivery Company; large oblong rectangle, wagon and horses, red on white; perforated. The company having been unsuccessful, this stamp is now obsolete, but is interesting as having been the first and only local for the metropolis. See volume for 1864, page 137.

Caledonian Railway; for one newspaper only. This is possibly the same mentioned above, but the colour is pale-green, not grey. Figured and described, page 153, of same volume.

Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway; for one newspaper only; black on pale pink. See same volume, page 170.

North British and Edinburgh and Glasgow Railways; black on white paper peculiarly diapered with green. We fancy this stamp has not yet been noticed in the magazine.

London and North Western Railway Company; prepaid newspaper parcel; green on white; 2 pence, 3 p., 4 p., 6 p., 9 p. See magazine for November, 1864. In the January number for 1865, page 8, is noticed a series of essays proposed to be issued by the same company. The device is precisely similar, but the impressions are black on yellow, and the values range higher, being 2, 3, 4, 6, and 9 pence, 1 shilling, 2 shillings and 6 pence, and 5 shillings.

Manchester, Sheffield, & Lincolnshire Railway; prepaid newspaper parcel. This stamp was really the first local employed in Great Britain. We say *was* because we believe it has been long disused. It was figured in the *Illustrated News* more than ten years since. See our April number for 1865. Similar labels were adopted by the Midland; Lancashire and Yorkshire; North Eastern; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire; and East Lancashire Railway Companies, for the prepayment of newspaper parcels.

Edinburgh and Leith Circular Delivery Company; one farthing, green on white, violet on white. The former is described in the January, and figured in the February number of the present year. The second was noted, and a specimen presented to our subscribers in March.

Edinburgh and Leith Parcel Delivery Company, 12, St. Andrew Square; 2 pence, yellow; imperforate. See page 21 of the present volume. Similar stamp; 3 pence, red. See page 42.

Clark & Co. Circular and Parcel Deliveries, 10, Calton Street, Edinburgh; blue on white. See same page.

THE ENGLISH-PRINTED STAMPS OF MAURITIUS.

AN article on the stamps of this island has for some months been in preparation; and we have been collecting information from the best sources at our command for more than two years, with the object of presenting to our readers as perfect a history of the various issues of this (in a philatelic point of view) highly interesting colony as we could collate.

A paper by Dr. Magnus, in the March number of *Le Timbrophile*, narrating a recent discovery of some unused specimens of the stamps of Mauritius, type Britannia seated, no value indicated, including, as the writer of that article supposes, one of a colour hitherto unknown to collectors, renders this present a fitting opportunity to place before our numerous readers such notes, information, and remarks as we have got together on the particular issue under discussion. We will commence by premising that stamps engraved and printed in the island, and of the respective values of one penny and twopence, were in use before any stamp from Great Britain ever reached the Mauritius, and that the first issue, the chronicle of which we are about to write, was the first exportation from the mother country to the colony.

The design of this stamp may be described as Britannia seated, impersonating the Genius of Commerce, grasping a spear in her right hand, the left reclining on an oval shield bearing the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew as combined in the union jack; the bales of merchandize and ship emblematic of commerce, to the right and left; the word MAURITIUS in white letters below; no indication of value on the face of the stamp.

This design is, as will be perceived, identical with that adopted for the first issues of Barbadoes and Trinidad. In this, as in those cases, the die was engraved and all the impressions taken from it were printed in England, in which country, we are credibly informed, the original dies still remain in the possession of the post-office authorities.

The circumstances above mentioned would help to determine the date of issue, if other means failed us; but we are singularly well supplied in this respect, and place the date of engraving the die in 1856, in which year the first impression both of trial stamps and those actually issued took place. In affixing this date we do so on official information supplied from the General Post-office, and we observe that both M. Herpin, in his article in the *Collectionneur de Timbres Poste*, and M. Moens, in his paper on the stamps of Mauritius in *Le Timbre Poste*, both give the date as 1856-7.

Mount Brown (who is, as to date, generally very inaccurate), in his first edition, May, 1862, gives the date 1857, and as anterior to all the native-made stamps; and this date has never been changed in the four subsequent editions of his catalogue; but he has retained this as being the first stamp in issue in the island, and thereby led to great confusion among those who were unacquainted with the real dates of the issues of the native impressions. The paper used was the ordinary white paper without watermark, and although, as we shall presently see, impressions on (so-called) blue paper are extant, that appearance is entirely owing to the greenish gum used to all the backs of these specimens: just as in the parallel case of the first issues of Trinidad and Barbadoes.

The island authorities had, before the manufacture of these stamps, in a fashion of their own, established a local post for the service of the interior of the isle, to which service the native-made stamps were applied; but no complete or proper postal organization existed in the colony. In the year 1856 the council of the island solicited the Foreign Office that the postage service of the colony should be regularly instituted and put into working order, under the direction of some experienced person to be sent out by the

British government. To this request the home authorities, acceded, and Mr Pearson Hill, son of Sir Rowland Hill (the then secretary to the General Post-office), was the person selected and charged with this duty; he left England in 1858, and arrived at Port Louis in the early part of 1859, when he immediately took upon himself the whole duties and responsibilities of the administration and complete re-organization of the postal establishment he found existing on his arrival.

Prior to his departure from England a number of stamps had been printed from the die already described, and sent to the colony. These were the green and the vermilion, which, and which only of this issue were, or ever had been, in circulation when Mr. Hill arrived in 1859. At this time the native-printed penny red and twopenny blue were also current. Before, however, any stamps for circulation had been printed from the die, and before the colours were adopted for use, a number of trial stamps were printed in different colours and sent abroad for selection and approval. As might be expected from the analagous cases of Trinidad and Barbadoes, red, blue, and green were among the colours submitted. Besides the bright vermilion-red, a rusty brick-red, exactly like the Trinidad and Barbadoes specimens, was also printed and made adhesive by the gum giving the well-known greenish appearance to the stamp; the blue was a bright true-blue, of precisely similar shade to the well-known stamps of Barbadoes on white, no value indicated. Among the hues sent on trial was also the magenta or *nacarat violet* of our French philatelists; and also one which Mount Brown catalogued as *slate*, our continental friends *ardoise*; but which we, from actual inspection, rather call a grey or violet-blue. The omission on the face of the stamp of any indication of its postal value is always a grand objection to its adoption, and in the case of those under review, has caused a pretty little controversy among the *cognoscenti*. Mons. Herpin propounds the theory that the vermilion was always *one penny*, 'the exclusive appanage of the one penny,' and tries to account for the rarity of the stamp by stating (on what authority

we know not) that but one despatch of the vermilion took place, and that as it could not successfully rival its competitor, the island-printed penny, value indicated, it was almost immediately withdrawn after its appearance. The statement that the colour vermilion was always the exclusive property of the one penny is, surely, a singular mode of deciding a question in which the opponent denies categorically that such is the case, and in which the contending parties have to prove or disprove that very assertion: what logicians term the *petitio principii*, or in plain English, begging the question, is well exemplified by this mode of arguing, if arguing it can be justly termed; while, despite our regard for the eminent writer from whom we differ, his last argument is surely of no avail, when the popular voice had no weight in the selection, and the postal authorities had complete and absolute control of what they would issue and what reject or withdraw from circulation.

The real value of the vermilion was *sixpence*, a fact we have in writing from Mr. Hill, and which will be seen completely to harmonize with the scope and object of the application by the colony to England, not for the penny value, for which the native-struck issues provided a sufficient representative at the time, but for the higher values for home and foreign postage, the necessity for organising which was the pressing cause of Mr. Hill's mission.

On the like authority we state that the green was of the value of *fourpence*.

We have seen a long and elaborate account of the issues of Mauritius, written about eighteen months ago, by (we conjecture) the employé of the post-office there, who obtained the stamps referred to at the close of this paper; in which, while giving 1857 as the date of this series, the writer assigns *twopenny* as the value of the green. To this value for the green the same objection applies as to the vermilion being valued at one penny; no pressing need existed for a twopenny stamp, and till the complete revision of the whole series, the native-printed twopenny amply sufficed for all current demands.

These two values franked, the higher a single rate of postage to England, the lower to

foreign destinations. Mr. Pearson Hill found these two stamps in use in the island in 1859, and the proofs or trial stamps then only remained in the desks or cabinets of the few officials and others who had received them, and had by design or chance omitted to destroy them.

The first and most obvious want striking Mr. Hill, was of a stamp, value ninepence, to prepay the postage of a single rate to England by the Overland Route, *viâ* Marseilles; and accordingly, by his desire, an impression of the die in magenta (*nacarat violet*) was printed, sent out, and issued by him in the middle of 1859.

The stamps of this type remained in circulation—the red till supplanted by the blue sixpenny, value indicated, in 1859; the green a little longer, and the magenta was withdrawn about the end of 1859, and before Mr. Hill left Mauritius. Simultaneously with the blue sixpenny, value indicated, the vermilion one shilling of the same type was issued, and the vermilion, no value indicated, was at once withdrawn.

The green fourpenny remained rather longer than its congeners, but early in 1860 it too was withdrawn; at an early period the inconvenience of its not bearing the value on its face was apparent, and an attempt to remedy it by striking the value with a hand-plate, in black letters, disposed in a semi-circle across the face of the stamp, was made; this was first adopted towards the end of 1857, before the postal system was in course of active revision and alteration, and was only carried out in some few instances, so that stamps thus marked are rare.

On the strength of an alleged specimen in the collection of M. Donatis, in Paris, M. Herpin gives the magenta hand-struck, in a similar way to the fourpence, with the letters EIGHTPENCE. That this value is arithmetically the double of fourpence we can discern, but beyond that we are in a state of great darkness. Why create a provisional stamp of a value which was not needed, which defrayed no complete postage rate from the Mauritius to any other part, and for which value no stamp has ever yet been issued, are questions we cannot solve.

Mr. Pearson Hill, who issued and re-called the magenta stamps during his tenure of office at Mauritius, says, in reference to this alleged specimen, 'This must be wrong, as the stamp was a ninepenny stamp, and none of them were ever marked with any value; the eightpence must have been printed subsequently, to make it pass as a rarity.'

On our own responsibility, and before Mr. Hill's decisive settlement of the question, we strongly doubted this specimen; the lettering is not, *mutatis mutandis*, identical with the lettering used for the fourpence hand-struck; the appearance of the stamp is not satisfactory, especially where the postmark and this indication of value come in contact with each other; and finally, and most of all, no other copy has ever been heard of, notwithstanding the researches and inquiries of every collector and dealer.

Last year the publishers of this magazine intimated that an article on Mauritius was in preparation, and requested information from any reader as to the existence and whereabouts of a copy of this alleged stamp. No response has been received from any quarter, although our journal has gone into all parts of the world; the nearest approach to a 'find' that the writer ever made, was that once Mr. Mount Brown told him, that some one told him, that a copy did exist in a London collection, but that he (Mr. B.) had tried to procure a sight of the *rara avis*, or even the address of its possessor, in vain. On all these grounds we feel we are justified in treating the eightpence hand-struck as an indubitable impostor, without a colour of title in favour of its pretensions.

The actual stamps, then, thus stand,—

| | | |
|-------|---------------------|------------|
| 1857. | Green, | fourpence. |
| „ | Green, hand-struck, | fourpence. |
| „ | Vermilion, | sixpence. |
| 1859. | Magenta, | ninepence. |

Some catalogues make two shades of green, an accidental or designed change, if they exist, but we could never satisfactorily trace them. The magenta vary slightly in intensity of colour, but not enough, in our judgment, to require distinct classification into deep and pale shades. The proofs or trial stamps hitherto known, are:—

- 1856-7. Blue.
 „ Brick-red (on bluish paper).
 „ Purple-blue (slate).

A specimen of this last, in the writer's possession, has the defacing mark, with the word CANCELLED in the centre, just touching the upper part of the stamp. This mark is never met with except on proofs or trial stamps printed in England. The brick-red on bluish paper, is called by some a stamp. Dr. Magnus says it is most rare new, 'very rare obliterated,' thus facetly recognizing it as having been in use. All we can say is, we believe it to be a proof, and never to have been in circulation; no postmarked specimen has ever come before us, nor any satisfactory evidence of its ever being emitted. On the contrary, Mr. Hill expressly says the above three colours, and four stamps, were all that ever were issued for use, by the public, of this series.

We must not conclude without referring to the discovery about which Dr. Magnus writes. He says an employé of the post-office in Mauritius, son of a Parisian amateur, has, through his mother, sent to one of the great stamp dealers in that city, a parcel of unused stamps of this issue, discovered (the tale goes) among the papers of a banker in the island. The packet contained, vermilion—3; magenta—10; brick-red on bluish paper—5; and blue—3; in all 21:—13 stamps, 8 proofs: no green stamp of any kind was among them. Whatever be the real history of this parcel, we can say thus much, having examined several, that what we saw are old, genuine impressions. The appearance of the stamps themselves is sufficient to convince any one conversant with the old issues, of their genuine character, and the fact we have mentioned as to the dies, is a sure guarantee against a reprint. Dr. Magnus, with some little pride in the discovery, announces the blue as a thing till now unknown, unheard of both by dealers and amateurs. Something more than a twelvemonth ago we first saw a copy in the collection of a gentleman holding a high official position in Downing-street, who told us he had obtained it from one of Her Majesty's consuls, formerly in the isle. Till then we had never heard of the existence of

this proof, but the circumstances under, and place in which we saw it, convinced us of its genuine nature, and until the exhumation Dr. Magnus relates, we had not heard of another specimen.

Specimens of the green and magenta are not at all uncommon, but in a perfectly unused state fetch good prices. The vermilion is always a scarce stamp; and unused is exceedingly rare. The fourpenny hand-struck is likewise very rare. All the proofs and trial stamps are of the highest degree of rarity, and classed among the *élite* of any collection.

We have been informed the blue was intended as a *two-penny* stamp; a fact which cannot be verified, as the whole of the colours printed were sent for selection and appropriation in the colony; and the blue was never adopted. The trial stamps were all sent out with adhesive gum on the backs.

Next month we hope to conclude our notes on these stamps, and carry the list down to the present time.

NOTE.—That part of the article which treats of the island-engraved stamps is in course of preparation, and the writer will feel greatly obliged by any information as to those bearing POST-OFFICE instead of POST PAID; or any other matter deemed worthy of communication. Address to the publishers.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

THE REVENUE STAMPS of the United States and other countries are now offered for sale by North American stamp dealers.

A BILL to enable the Postmaster-General, when a commoner, to sit in the House of Commons, brought in by Mr. Darby Griffith, has just been read a third time in the Lower House.

THE UNITED STATES 'PENNY.'—The value of many of the United States locals is in *pence*, and the *Stamp-Collector's Record* explains that at the time they were current it was customary to count by pence, a penny being equivalent to a cent, but 'that relic of British connection is now happily extinct.'

THE THREEPENNY NEW ZEALAND.—A circumstance has lately come to our knowledge proving that this stamp must have had a remarkably limited circulation, and also showing the value of an official statement. A New Zealand colonist, a long time since, was asked by a collecting friend at home to procure for him a specimen of the three-penny violet. He accordingly went to the office in Dunedin, the principal town in Otago, and on inquiring for the stamp, the postmaster informed him that he had never seen it or heard of its being in circulation!

THE 'CONVICT' STAMPS.—A Western Australian correspondent in M. Moens' magazine, informs him that the so-called convict stamps are really used for official purposes. Swan River being a crown colony is governed direct from England, and all the official communications between the

mother country and the resident staff are franked by the ordinary stamps of the colony, with a perforation in the centre, which is made after they are obtained from the post-office, and which, by distinguishing them from the rest, prevents the possibility of their being used to prepay the private correspondence of any of the officials, without detection.

A MEMBER OF THE FRENCH SENATE proposed, in the present session of the chamber, that the effigy on the postage stamps should be replaced by the emblematic figure on the imperial receipt and other labels, his reason being that it was not consistent with the respect and admiration due to the emperor that his portrait should be defaced every minute of the day, and by millions throughout France, by the strokes of the obliterating stamp! How deficient in loyalty, and in gallantry too, have English legislators shown themselves in permitting the likeness of our lady the Queen to be subject to the same annihilating process for upwards of a quarter of a century, without once moving that Britannia or St. George and the Dragon should be substituted!

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—There are two or three subjects of interest touched upon in your March number, upon which I should like to say a few words. First, Mr. Overy Taylor imagines the motto on the New Granada 1 c. stamp to contain the word *Beatro*; without doubt the words are *Libertad y Orden*, as you state. Your correspondent, D. J. P., wishes for the introduction of telegraph stamps into a timbropostal collection, and advances two reasons for this, the first being that they are 'more worthy of figuring in an album than bill or receipt stamps.' This reason almost supposes the collection of bill and receipt stamps to be general and orthodox; as far as my experience shows few earnest collectors will admit either; those who do will admit anything. The second argument used is, that 'they form a tax on messages sent.' In reply to this, I fully agree with your correspondent, 'Limitation,' that they who collect postage stamps have sufficient work before them to complete their collections with legitimate stamps, without running into the byeways and ditches after such unbidden guests as telegraph, bill, receipt, and railway parcel stamps, or even essays. When there came a demand for essays—carefully fostered by the magazines—see how beautifully adapted became the supply; the greater the desire, the more wonderful were the essays. I do not know if any of your readers ever saw an essay (it was offered to me as one) headed *Van Demont's Land*, and bearing a fancy portrait of a gentleman with an orthopedical foot; this thing (whether real or a delicate satire) was offered during the height of the mania for essays, and was fully as valuable as those usually offered. In the same way a demand for telegraph stamps would create a supply, we should soon be surprised at the many unheard-of companies which would suddenly become known by their stamps, and we should be further surprised to find in how many cases these stamps would be the only part of the company having an existence. Surely enough of your readers have been deluded with essays without opening a fresh source of imposition, as admitting telegraph stamps would be certain to do.

Your correspondent, 'J. Y.,' may rest assured that the two varieties of the 1 c. British Guiana *patimus* are existing, and that they are among the re-issued ones, as well as amongst originals.

To 'Tyro' it may be interesting to know that in 1843 the 5 c. United States P. O. (large black) stamp was in use;

I have taken them myself off letters of December, 1843, from New York to this town.

I see that 'Novice' wonders how Mr. Lewes and myself reconcile our statement as to dates of the Swiss stamps with Lallier's. Did it never strike your correspondent that when our remarks were written Lallier's Album did not exist? I am fully aware now from postmarked specimens of the Basle stamps, that they were used at a date long anterior to any we had imagined. It is true, as 'Novice' remarks, that we writers on forged stamps sometimes raise most unnecessary difficulties; this may often occur from over-cautiousness, but in Mr. Dalston's case it seems to proceed from an entanglement of ideas. Some of Mr. Dalston's assertions are as bewildering as his grammar, which latter is usually very involved. I do not mean to say that his work may not be of use to some one, but I think that the schoolboys to whom it is recommended in the advertisement, would, in perusing their instructor's pages, be more apt to criticise than learn.

The lithographed Spanish stamps, mentioned on page 43, are old acquaintances of mine. That they have been used for the postage of letters there can be no doubt; but I am perfectly certain that they are forgeries, which were successfully used to cheat the Spanish Post-office. Of the 4 c. of 1855 Dr. Magnus only chronicles one, on blue paper without the distinctive watermark of that issue; through the kindness of a friend I am able to speak of the existence of one *with* the watermark of double curls; this stamp is identical with that printed on unwatermarked paper; but the part that at once condemns it as a forgery is, that these watermark curls are not in the substance of the paper, but are *painted* on to its surface at the back. This is a convincing proof in my estimation of their non-official origin; for why should any trouble be taken with the watermark in one specimen, when in most cases it was omitted, and did not seem necessary. The postmarks on all I have seen have been perfectly genuine.

One of our first postal authorities writes at length in the April number of the *Timbrophile*, telling of the discovery of a quantity of the old 'Britannia' Mauritius, unused and ungummed. They are the scarlet, magenta, and green, with another colour—blue—which he considers an essay or proof. Their history as given by him is that they were found at a banker's at Port Louis; he writes to prove them genuine, and argues that they must be, and are, genuine. I have a great respect for any opinion of Dr. Magnus', but I do not think his judgment has been formed with its usual perspicuity in this instance. That a quantity of old forgotten postage stamps should be found is nothing extraordinary; but how comes it to pass that amongst postage stamps that have been in use, essays, and gummed essays too, should be found? The number 'discovered' is said to be limited, but I have certain proof that such is not the case; the fact is they are being brought out very cautiously, especially the blue ones, and when the demand comes the supply will increase. I think if it was wished to 'float' the blue stamp it would have been better to have said it was an undiscovered variety, for a *gummed proof* is difficult to credit.

In your April number 'An Amateur' says, 'It is reported in Paris that the red Mercury (*ponceau*) and the yellow are about to be reprinted from the original dies.' This red Mercury (*ponceau*) is itself a reprint, the only original red-coloured one being the pale rose, perhaps the rarest European stamp. I suppose your correspondent meant the rose; it is hardly likely they would reprint a reprint.

Edgbaston.

EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

T. C. G., Newnham.—We really cannot see the utility of the letters at the corners of our English stamps. If you notice a complete sheet you will find they commence A B, B B, C B, &c., above; the same letters reversed (except, of course, the second pair) below: you will consequently find stamps with four B's, four C's, &c. The same letters are not repeated in a precisely similar way in the whole sheet; it follows, that out of the whole 240, every stamp slightly varies.—Lithographed stamps are impressed from *stone*, as woodcuts from wood, &c.—We give a list of Scotch locals elsewhere. They must, of course, be included amongst those of Great Britain.—You ask if there are two sixpenny stamps of New South Wales. There are somewhere about a dozen in all, but only two current; the violet for common, and the blue and red for registered letters.

A SUBSCRIBER, Gravesend.—The 5 cents Sandwich Island stamp you mention is noted with the other impressions of those islands in our March number. You will see they were for inland postage.

JACOBUS, Blackheath.—Your Newfoundland stamps, printed on cardboard, are probably proofs, not essays. They bear both internal and external evidence of emanating from the American Bank Note Company. The admission of proofs and essays is yet a moot point with collectors, and must be left, as we have frequently remarked, to individual fancy.—Bill and receipt stamps are mostly, but not invariably, excluded.—The magnificent, almost marvellous, collection of Dr. De Volpi, of Munich, now in the possession of Messrs. Haslett & Co., has not disdained sheltering the elegant commercial labels of Bremen, Jamaica, and several other localities. The shilling of the latter country is decidedly admissible, having been frequently employed for letter postage, as have been also the *bears* of Berne.—The tenpenny Victoria was an emission of 1865, before the last edition of Lallier appeared. A sixpenny, of similar type, in now in use.

A. C. K., Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.—Thanks for a specimen of the pavement of a certain place, unmentionable to ears polite, but the St. Domingo stamp was *not* enclosed in your letter.—After all the contradictory affirmations as to whom the credit of the Nova Scotians, &c., is due, it turns out that the 'National' Bank Note Company and that known as 'American,' are the same; both imprints have been occasionally seen, we are informed, on one sheet of stamps!

GERMAN, at Br.—This correspondent informs us that he has discovered his Finland *porto* stamp and envelopes, received from a collector at Breslau, are forgeries, and that he discovered this circumstance from our notice in last October number. The suggestion there was too slight to be taken for any authority; he probably refers to the remarks at pages 7 or 95, but these being contradictory, leave the question of falsehood and verity in abeyance. He adds (as far as we can comprehend from his imperfect English) that the old impressions found on the flaps of the current issue, are printed forgeries of the same city.

E. E., Oxford.—The colour and paper of your blue 3 c. Swiss, pattern of the current emission, prove its unguine character as a stamp; moreover it is not embossed or perforated: and the part of a Bern postmark so conspicuous in one corner would preclude the idea of its being an essay.

CORRECTOR.—In our notice of the Brunswick current emission in last December's number, the black $\frac{1}{2}$ s. g. adhesive was misprinted $\frac{1}{2}$ s. g. This error was corrected in January, and the $\frac{1}{2}$ s. g. erroneously added to the set. This latter has not yet appeared.

A CONSTANT READER, Burnham.—We have not a *tres centos* brown Mexican ourselves, but you can get one from Mahé, in Paris, price 50 centimes, unused.—We believe the set of which one was figured in our last July number consists of essays only, and was never adopted by the authorities. The absence of perforation however is no proof, none of the Mexicans having ever been perforated.

H. E. J., Lilley, Herts.—It is almost universally allowed by cataloguers that the first issue of Wurtemberg envelopes took place in 1862. They are on *white* paper with pale-green inscription to the right in roman characters. These are correctly noted by Mount Brown, Bellars & Davie, Moens—who gives two shades of the 6 kr. and 9 kr.—and Berger-Levrault, who mentions one blue only. We hope to present the valuable and correct catalogue of the latter authority in an English dress in the course of this year. The second emission only is mentioned by Dr. Gray, who assigns the same date; but it did not appear till 1863. The paper employed is blue-tinted, and the inscription a darker green, and in smaller characters which Mount Brown calls 'block.' The 3 kr. of this emission is much deeper in hue than that of the preceding. We possess a variety impressed on an envelope much narrower than usual, that we were informed was intended for invitations and ladies' notes. This series is noticed by all the authors above cited, but the continental writers alone give the date 1863. We purchased them ourselves at Ulm in 1864. We know nothing of the cloud-inhabiting envelope of Messrs. Bellars & Davie with *red* inscription. The current issue was noticed in our August number for last year, and is as yet catalogued in our own edition of Oppen only, and in the French one of Levrault, a proof of which is before us. They came out last year; the 1 kr. green was added, lilac inscription to the *left*; and the colours of that of the 3 kr. and 6 kr. both changed, the former to black, the latter to yellow, but remaining as before to the *right* of the impression. The paper of these is a still deeper tint of blue than that of the second series. We procured some of the 3 kr. last year at Wildbad, well worth preserving as varieties, the indented impression on the reverse of which is as deeply coloured as the stamp itself. We have not seen the green variation you describe as destitute of inscription. For greater convenience of reference we will repeat these remarks in a tabular form in our article on New Stamps. Moens gives the date of appearance of the grey sixpenny hexagonal framed New South Wales as 1851; no other author chronicles it as coming out till ten years later. The Belgian authority may be correct, but we should be inclined to split the difference, as you write that your own specimen is postmarked November 10, 1858.

E. B. P., Aldershot Camp.—You can have any quantity of blue ruled sheets to match the earlier editions of Oppen's Album on application at the publisher's, *Family Herald* Office, Strand. The new edition has spaces for the Bermudas, British Honduras &c., and all countries emitting stamps up to Christmas last.

F. H., Bridgewater.—The Dutch stamp you describe marked *ZUID-HOLLAND*, similar to the *NOORD-HOLLAND* noted in Bellars & Davie's catalogue, is neither new nor an envelope, but a newspaper stamp impressed by hand.—The English envelopes, values 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 7d., 8d., 9d., 1/0, 1/2, 1/3, 1/4, and 1/6 are procurable on special application at Somerset House only, applicants finding their own paper, and paying a fee for any number not amounting to ten pounds sterling.—The Gordon McKay stamp you describe we are inclined to believe is an impostor.

E. S. G., Briton Ferry.—We acknowledge and avail ourselves of your information with many thanks.

POSTAGE-STAMP PAPER & WATER-MARKS.

(Continued from page 67).

MAURITIUS.—The stamps of the first series, Queen's head native printed, are printed in colour on unwatermarked paper. The penny and twopenny with Greek bordering are on very strong laid paper. The Britannia stamps, value designated or otherwise, on slightly tinted paper, have no watermark. The first issue of stamps, with the Queen's head on glazed paper, took place in 1861, and was unwatermarked. Since the adoption of the threepenny and five shilling values in 1863, these, as well as the anterior individuals of similar type (except the ninepenny), have borne the double C and crown as watermark.

REUNION.—The impressions of this island are on bluish unwatermarked thin paper.

BRITISH INDIA.—A superficial examination of these stamps would give the idea of their being devoid of any watermark. In our remarks on watermarks in general (see page 17), we showed that they possess a watermark composed of one large design occupying certain portions only of each sheet, and that in consequence of such peculiarity, those individuals that chanced not to come on a part of the pattern, were unwatermarked. We have given a cut of the watermark on the sheet of the first series of blue half annas. It represents the arms of Great Britain. We take it for granted that the sheets destined for the other values of the same set, are similarly circumstanced, because we have sometimes found fragments, sometimes no traces, of watermarks on them. We cannot affirm the design to be precisely identical, though such is probably the case.

We have discovered no analogous arrangement on any sheet of the current series. However, the sole specimen of the orange-yellow 2 annas in our collection, is watermarked with a vertical line and the half of an S vertically cut off, doubtless the fragment of some inscription contained in the paper. We have been unable to find anything of the same character on other stamps.

CEYLON.—The majority of the stamps of this island, perforated or otherwise, are on

toned paper, and bear the same six-pointed star as those of St. Helena, figured page 65. A violet-brown sixpenny, on bluish paper, is also found with this star. The halfpenny stamp is the sole exception, and has been but recently perforated. It is printed on glazed unwatermarked paper. But this watermark is not the only one on the Ceylon stamps; and we must notice a perforated dark-brown sixpence, and brown ninepence, without the slightest appearance of watermark, also an eightpence watermarked with a large figure; and, again, a new series with the double C and crown, emitted in 1864, of which we have met with the halfpenny, the dark-blue penny, dark-brown sixpenny, brown eightpenny, bistre ninepenny, and indigo two-shilling stamps. It is to be supposed the Ceylons will, henceforth, uniformly present this watermark.

HONG KONG.—The seven stamps emitted in 1862, are printed on white unwatermarked paper. The three that came out in 1863, viz., the 4, 6, and 30 cents, have the crown and double C. The colours of some of these stamps have been varied. The current yellow 8 cents bears a figure as watermark, and the 96 c. a crown and double C.

LUZON.—No watermark, even on the stamps imitated from the 1855 series of Spain. The 1 and 2 reales on blue laid paper, with garter watermarks, and the same values with lozenges on toned paper, have been made use of. (See Spain, page 65).

VICTORIA.—The original stamps, bearing the Queen's head, as well as the brown twopenny with Her Majesty enthroned, contain no watermark. The penny green and sixpenny blue have a star. Various watermarks are to be noticed on the sets with the Queen's head in a medallion, the several types of which it may be as well to characterize here.

1. Portrait in an oval medallion, ornamented at the corners. Values,—penny green, twopenny violet of different shades, fourpence rose or brick-red.

2. Same design, without corner ornaments. Pale-green penny.

3. Portrait with POSTAGE STAMP at the sides. Sixpence orange, sixpence black, two shillings green. The registered and too-late stamps have the greatest analogy with this set.

4. Portrait in unornamented medallion, but with a small white figure on the coloured impression. Threepence blue, fourpence rose, sixpence orange and black.

5. Portrait as above, but with large figure at the sides and black inscription. Sixpence black.

6. Portrait in circle, circumscribed by an octagon. One shilling blue.

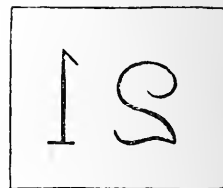
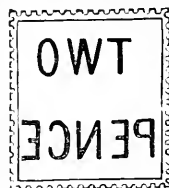
[A seventh type is composed of the current green penny, light and dark-mauve twopenny, pale and deep-rose fourpenny, and orange eightpenny, differing from No. 3 by the absence of the words POSTAGE STAMP. The present two shillings differs in colour only from its predecessor; the one shilling much more notably, yet scarcely sufficient to form a distinct type; but the newly-emitted tenpenny, and most welcome sixpenny, must decidedly rank as an eighth. The threepenny of No. 4 is now lake-red].

We have met with the penny and fourpenny of the first group watermarked with a star, and Mons. Herpin signalizes a twopenny. That gentleman mentions also a penny on laid, and fourpenny rose of the same type, on common paper, perforated. [The twopenny with the figure 2 as watermark, quoted by Mons. H. with doubt, and questioned also by Dr. M., we possess in our own collection, both mauve and violet].

There are found on laid paper, the twopenny violet and lilac, with ornaments, perforated by the roulette, the fourpenny rose, perforated, and very probably the penny green with ornaments. Then come the stamps on laid paper, unwatermarked, viz., the perforated green penny with ornaments; the pale-green one, perforated by roulette or machine; the perforated green penny without ornaments; the violet twopenny, also perforated; the perforated threepenny with small lateral figures; the imperforated orange sixpenny with the words POSTAGE STAMP; the two shilling of the same type, perforated and otherwise; the one shilling of both kinds; and lastly, the unperforated registered and too-late stamps.

In a succeeding group is found the value of the stamp fully inscribed in letters. They are the following, all perforated: the penny green, with and without ornaments; the pale-

violet twopenny; the threepenny blue, with small figures at the sides; the fourpenny rose, same type; the sixpenny black, POSTAGE STAMP at the sides; the sixpenny orange, small figure at sides; sixpenny black, same type; and the black sixpenny with large figures and inscription.



With a double-lined figure as watermark, we have only discovered the penny green without ornaments, and the current carmine fourpenny; whereas with figure formed of single lines we can signalize the unornamented green penny; the fourpenny rose, small figures at sides; the sixpenny black with large figures; and the current emission of one penny green, twopenny violet, and fourpenny rose; and we have the first-named stamp on white paper quite unwatermarked.

We cannot flatter ourselves on having indicated all the different species of watermarks found on each stamp, especially as regards the earlier groups, which become more and more difficult to procure.

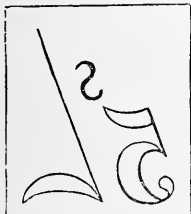
NEW SOUTH WALES.—The first or Sydney series of stamps contains no watermark. It bears two different aspects. The paper is sometimes bluish, sometimes white. The former tint gives the stamps the following varieties of colour: one penny, deep or wine-coloured carmine, and threepenny, myrtle-green; while the white or yellowish paper produces a one penny bright-carmine, and a yellowish-green threepenny. The twopenny blue differs only in the more or less blue appearance of the stamp; all three values evidence their difference on the reverse. We have also found a set on white laid paper—one penny red, twopenny blue, and threepenny green, but the latter wants confirmation.

The second or laureated series was issued

at first on bluish paper. These stamps are unwatermarked, and five in number—one penny deep-carmine, twopenny blue, threepenny deep-green, sixpenny brown, and eightpenny orange. A second set, on very slightly bluish paper, comprehends the following: one penny vermilion, twopenny violet, and threepenny pale-green. They are equally devoid of watermark.

The third set of the second series on white paper, bears a large figure as watermark. It comprehends three varieties—one penny vermilion, twopenny blue, and threepenny green. The figure of the watermark indicates the corresponding value of the stamp in pence. None of these stamps are perforated. The second set has been hitherto disregarded.

All the stamps which follow, perforated or not, are on white paper and watermarked with a double-lined figure, corresponding to their value. M. Mahé has obliged us with a brick-red shilling watermarked with an 8 instead of the proper 12.



The five-shilling stamp is watermarked with a 5, ornamented by the letter S and an oblique line at the side. [English readers will readily unravel the intent of this mark].

The penny red in square frame, is the only one of its series with single-lined figure. [The provisional reprint of this stamp, much paler in colour, is totally destitute of watermark. The badly-printed lot which they superseded, same type as that now current, on glazed paper, bear the single-lined figure, but we have specimens of the latter or existing stamps both with and without watermark]. On the twopenny stamp emitted in 1862, which at first bore a double-lined, is now a single-lined figure. We have seen a proof of this stamp, printed by mistake on the tinted paper of the current fivepenny, and sporting a double-lined 5 as watermark. As for the registered stamps, they have no figures for watermarks. We have distinguished part of the word SOUTH on an unperforated orange specimen, probably a fragmentary part of an inscription.

The penny stamp for newspaper wrappers presents a novel arrangement of the watermark, which has just been remarked to us. Each sheet contains eight stamps on two parallel rows for making that number of wraps. They are on very strong laid paper. On one side is a watermark running the whole length of the four bands, but not on the other; so that wrappers are found both with and without watermark. It is 2.2 inches wide, and is composed of a pair of ornamental borderings above and below, between which are the letters N. S. W., in fancy



characters at one extreme; the remainder of the space being filled in with trellis-work of curves and lozenges.

[We do not know whether Dr. Magnus refers to the existing or superseded newspaper wrappers. He adds that he possesses one on hot-pressed paper. In our own collection are perfect specimens of the first issue (oval) on hot-pressed paper, like that used by Messrs. Smith & Elder, and on the sort described above; but *both* are totally devoid of watermark. The curious one noted by our author, we have in a complete state on a sheet of eight of the current rectangular impressions].

QUEENSLAND.—The first set of the unique series of this colony bears the star as watermark on the perforated and probably unperforated individuals. Another set, printed in 1863, with more vivid colours on white paper is unwatermarked. The register stamp appertains to the former sets only.

(To be continued.)

THE ENGLISH-PRINTED STAMPS OF MAURITIUS.—II.

RESUMING our paper from the part where we broke off last month, we come to the next emission of British-printed stamps for this colony. It comprises only two values, viz., sixpence and one shilling, and was alluded to in our last month's magazine, page 77.

The type remained substantially the same as the last—Britannia sitting—with this important alteration, namely, at the base, in lieu of the word MAURITIUS, the value in words was inserted; whilst MAURITIUS found its way to the upper part of the stamp, where it was placed in a curved line above the head of Britannia.

Of this design were issued, in 1859, towards the close of the year,—

Sixpence, blue,
One shilling, vermilion,

on plain paper, with neither watermark nor perforation.

In 1862 the authorities reverted again to this type, and issued—

Sixpence, purple-brown,
One shilling, green (bright shade),
" " (deep shade),

on like paper, and unperforated.

The hue of the first shilling mentioned is a somewhat yellowish, but still decidedly green, called by the French *vert d'olive*, and exactly identical with the sixpence Trinidad; value indicated and not perforated. The coincidence of tint probably points to the same time of printing in the mother country. Copies may be found of a deeper and more decided colour, almost grass-green in tint. This type appears to have been a favourite subject for the experiments of the authorities, for in 1863 we find again a further emission printed from these plates, but this time rejoicing in the improvement of perforation.

Sixpence, purple-slate.
One shilling, bluish-green.

The hue of the latter is a deep-green of an unmistakable bluish tone.

Mount Brown (5th edition, page 43) chronicles a shilling, of this series, *brown*; this is evidently a mere change of colour produced in the vermilion, whether by accident or design is not material to inquire. Copies may be occasionally met with where the original hue of vermilion still remains on part, while the rest of the stamp has been changed to a brown, more or less pronounced. The one shilling *hellbraun*, recorded by Berger Levrault, in his German catalogue (page 57), is the same thing.

We now come to the existing type, which

first appeared in 1861, and which, like so many of our colonial stamps in present use, was produced and is printed by Messrs. De la Rue & Co., of London. It may be described as a head of Queen Victoria with diadem, in profile turned towards the left, in an oval; a curved band above, inscribed MAURITIUS; in a similar band below, the value. The groundwork filling up the rectangle of the stamp consists of an ornamental engraved design; the entire effect of the stamp is exceedingly neat and refined.

In 1861 appeared—

One penny, lilac-brown.
Twopence, blue.
Fourpence, rose.
Ninepence, light-violet.

In 1862-3 appeared—

First { Sixpence, green.
One shilling, yellow-brown.
Later { Sixpence, lilac-grey.
One shilling, green.

All the foregoing are perforated, and printed on thin paper with a highly glazed surface; without watermark.

There appears little worthy of special remark, except to call attention to the frequent changes in the colours of the sixpenny and shilling stamps, and to add that in small circles on each side of the head in these two values, a microscopically small figure of the value can be discerned. The shades of the one penny vary much in intensity. In 1863, the series in actual service was completed by the addition of a threepence vermilion, and five shillings in bright-violet. These latter are substantially the same design as their colleagues, and also bear the small side figures of value in circles, as do the sixpenny and shilling. So far as we have been able to verify their existence the series runs as under, and is perforated, printed on highly glazed paper, watermarked C C beneath a crown.

One penny, lilac-brown.
Twopence, blue.
Threepence, vermilion.
Fourpence, rose.
Sixpence, lilac.
One shilling, yellow-brown.
Five shillings, bright-violet.

The ninepence is wanting at present, but will doubtless soon be issued. When this appears the whole series on the watermarked paper will be completed.

It would leave the matter incomplete if we passed by, unnoticed, the

ENVELOPES.

These are of three values, and four in number, viz., two sixpenny, one ninepenny, and one shilling. They are embossed with a device, head of Queen Victoria to left, and each value varies in design. The earliest were issued in 1862-3.

Sixpence. The head of the Queen is placed in a circle, surrounded by an octagon, the whole again surrounded by a circle. Impression in reddish purple.

One shilling. Head of the Queen in an oval. Impression in yellow.

Both these envelopes are of large foolscap size, the paper thin and of a bluish tint, such as is ordinarily used for foreign postage. Neither are very common; the shilling, uncut and entire, is rare, and fetches a high price: a copy recently made 75 francs in Paris, but this we think outrageously dear. The shilling envelope is no longer in use; none have been printed since 1863. To our thinking the die of this envelope was never properly perfected, and if an impression be compared against the present sixpence, the superior execution and effect of the latter will be apparent. No doubt the thinness of the paper has somewhat to do with the imperfect result.

1864.

Sixpence. Same die. Impression in violet.

Ninepence. An emeagonal-shaped die. Impression in chocolate-brown.

This last pair, the current envelopes of the isles, is impressed on thickish blue wove paper, which shows the perfection of the dies to great advantage. The size of the envelopes is small, taking an ordinary sized sheet of note paper folded in three.

All the envelope dies were produced by Messrs. De la Rue & Co., and the present envelopes are manufactured by them.

EXPLODED ERRORS.

THERE comes a period in every pursuit when it is permissible to halt for a moment—to 'rest and be thankful,' in fact, and note the difficulties which have been overcome, and the progress which has been made. It may be some encouragement to new collectors, and must certainly be a pleasing employment for older ones, to take a retrospective glance at, what an able writer recently termed, 'the dark ages of stamp collecting.' It is now more than three years ago since this magazine began its existence. At that time little effort had been made, in this country at least, towards a systematic study of stamps. Continental amateurs were somewhat more advanced in their knowledge of these interesting productions. M. Moens' *Illustrated Guide Manual* was already published, and the excellent engravings it contained were of great service: his journal appeared about the same date as ours. In England Dr. Gray's *Handbook* was in circulation, and also Mount Brown's *Catalogue*, which assisted so much in giving permanency to the movement. But in those days, when 'philately' was still termed 'timbromania,' how many stamps were believed in, which have since proved mythical; how much misunderstanding existed upon points which are now clearly settled!

Those were the times when 'Ocean Postage' labels were freely bought or exchanged, and collectors inquired for the mysterious Cayenne essay, which has never yet been forthcoming. The Utah stamp was then sought for, and a place of honour given to all the Hamburg local sets. Now-a-days collectors are more chary in admitting them, and the merest tyro would not place the Berlin express stamps, which there was then a ready sale for, on his Prussian page. The character of the Irish petty sessions stamp is now well ascertained, but at that time English philatelists believed, against all reason, that these judicial labels were, in some remarkable way, connected with the prepayment of letter postage.

Amongst the hundreds of Sydney stamps which have since been imported, there have been plenty with the motto plainly visible,

but clean specimens were unattainable when Dr. Gray, with some hesitation, suggested in the first number of the *S. C. M.* that it should be read *sic fortis Etruria crevit*, and not as a foreign author had it, *sic fortis curia* (or *et rudis*) *crevit*. We now know that the United States inland revenue 'express' stamps were to be fixed to every receipt or acknowledgement given for any package or box forwarded by any of the American express forwarding companies, but in the early numbers of the *S. C. M.* their employment was a 'moot point.' It was also at one time a general opinion that the New York post-office (big-head) stamps were locals, but it seems now pretty clear that they were an early government issue. As the late lamented Mr. Lesley justly observed, 'It seems scarcely probable that any private individual would venture on so bold a proceeding, as to usurp directly the name of a government office. It is still more unlikely that private individuals could issue stamps which should pass unchallenged through the government mails and be considered as the evidence of prepayment. Of the latter fact, so far as it applies to the New York stamps in question, I can vouch from my own knowledge;' and on this point his evidence is confirmed by Mr. Pemberton, who states, in a letter in the correspondence of the last number, that he has taken postmarked specimens of these stamps from letters received from the United States so long since as 1843. On the entire question of the date of issue of the United States stamps, the stamp-collecting public was in error through Mount Brown giving it as 1857, instead of 1847.

Even on points connected with the emissions of English stamps, English collectors were long in the dark. It is but a few months since that Mr. Pearson Hill (than whom no one has better means of knowing) plainly stated that the embossed sixpenny and shilling without date, and the tenpenny were never placed upon envelopes. The same gentleman has also, by omitting any mention of the black twopenny, removed all ground for belief in it. Stamps of this value in black were originally blue, and their change of colour is doubtless due to some atmospheric or other external agency. We have

seen specimens in which one half of the groundwork had become black and the other remained blue, and we have been shown penny stamps in a similar state of change. Some of them were on letters postmarked with the date 1862, and the unaltered portions were still of a brilliant colour. Of the same class are the *blue* 5 c. New Brunswick, 12½ c. Canada, and 10 c. United States, which are now generally considered to be metamorphosed green ones, but which at one time were thought to be very valuable.

Envelopes for France and for Norway were eagerly expected in the early days to which we have alluded. It was even said that they were already prepared, but 'still they come'—not; though it is once more stated 'on reliable authority' that 1867 will witness the emission of a series for the former country. The halfpenny Newfoundland, and the two values formed by dissecting the Vancouver's Island twopence halfpenny, were errors into which our continental friends fell, but we shared their belief in the 4 and 5 pesos blue of Buenos Ayres, which M. Moens ultimately proved to be unfounded. The researches of French amateurs have also disproved the existence of a 50 c. French stamp, though now and then discoveries still occur of poor fabrications of this unissued value, and even of the bonbon labels which once puzzled many a thoughtful collector. The phantom of a tenpenny Van Diemen's Land long haunted foreign amateurs, but the emphatic denials of the colonial officials have, we trust, finally laid it; and at the same time a satisfactory history of the unique existing specimen has been given. Amongst the few questions which all effort has been vain to settle, that of the actual locality of the so-called Dutch Guiana stamp is the principal, but we are encouraged to hope that this will be ultimately ascertained. The position even of a given country—Livonia—was once unknown, but, as may be supposed, did not long remain so. And now collectors must apply themselves to discover in what part of Switzerland 'Rigi' or 'Kaltbad' is situated, for postal guides and gazetteers afford no information concerning a place which has arrived at the dignity of having a postage stamp of its own.

The exploded fallacies to which we have alluded, are but samples selected almost at random from a much larger number. That they no longer receive credence is due to the careful manner in which every asserted fact connected with stamps has been tested. This persevering study has also brought to light many interesting particulars previously unknown, and has settled one important circumstance concerning the emissions of many countries, namely, the date of their issue.

[Pendant to this interesting communication we may make a few pertinent remarks. In allusion to the *Illustrations* of Mons. Moens, above mentioned, we would recommend all philatelists to provide themselves with a copy, especially as it can now be procured at a reduced price. We have possessed specimens of what has been named the Cayenne essay for several years; it is described in last year's January number. Essays for French envelopes were printed off by M. Barre three years since. We have seen them in a few Parisian collections, but they are exceedingly rare, for even the copious albums of Dr. Magnus, mentioned in our last number, do not contain a single individual. The Iceland and Garibaldi stamps, both of which fetched high prices, may be added to the list of impostors. There can be no doubt of the whereabouts of the well-known Rigi mountain one of the *sights* of Switzerland; and a *cold-bath* establishment exists there. The stamp figured in our May number turns out to be simply an advertisement thereof; and the floral emblem depicted thereon is the *Asulea Alpina*, or rose of the Alps.—Ed.]

THE SOCIÉTÉ PHILATÉLIQUE.

COLLECTORS were informed some months since of the establishment of a Philatelic Society in Paris. The details of its creation have not, however, hitherto been given. The following abridged extract from *Le Timbrophile* will therefore, we doubt not, prove interesting.

'In the month of January last (1865) the principal amateurs of Paris being desirous of uniting together for the study of stamps, M. Bécourt obligingly offered his saloon to his *confères*. At the meeting which was held a number of persons attended, and a letter was addressed to all the known collectors in Paris inviting their assistance in this reunion. Those present united themselves into a permanent society, and resolved to meet on the second Thursday in each month. M. de S., member of the Institute, was unanimously appointed honorary president, and that gentleman accepted the appointment, promising

to attend as often as his numerous engagements would permit; M. H., was with equal unanimity appointed (working) president, and M. R., secretary. A committee was also nominated to prepare the rules of the society. At the next meeting the rules were proposed and accepted with little discussion. The society further resolved that it would set about the arrangement of a catalogue of all known stamps, and another of essays. At the meeting in June, several of the members gave in papers stating the results of their studies on the subject. In view of the small number then present, however, the society decided to postpone the preparation of the catalogue, but hoped, relying on the zeal and activity of its associates and the able direction of its president, to bring the work to a successful conclusion.

'Thus France has had the honour of constituting the first society of postage-stamp amateurs, whose earliest occupation is to draw up a reliable catalogue of stamps and essays. It is their desire that all the philatelists of France and of the world unite with them, either by forming local societies affiliated to that of Paris, or by the individual adhesion of every collector.'

The society whose formation was thus announced seems hardly to have answered the expectations of its founders. The journal from which the above account was quoted stated that it would publish a report of the meetings. In September, 1865, it announced, that owing to the absence of several of the members, the sittings had been suspended during August and September, but it is now April, and there is no further notice of the Society, which we fear therefore has proved a failure. If this is the case, it is much to be regretted; the effort was a worthy one, and had it been successful, must have resulted in great benefit to collectors. We are not without hope that a similar society on this side of the water might have a longer life.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

THE announcements of forthcoming novelties, changes of hue, local accessions, &c., being sufficiently numerous to necessitate economy

of words, we will, without further preamble, produce our first engraving.

UNITED STATES.—It is that of a hitherto unrepresented value for the United States. The cut sufficiently realizes the general appearance of the stamp, but the likeness is not so perfect as that of the original. It is possible the broken or unfinished pillars may be intended as typical



of the late President Lincoln's untimely end. The impression is black, on unwatermarked paper.

FRANCE.—We have been favoured with a sight of some of the French envelopes offered for adoption, either of which, both for design and execution, are what the Scotch call 'a sight for sair een.' One was printed green on thin foreign paper, with crossbarred watermark. The impression is oval, centre bearing emperor's head crowned with laurel to left. An encompassing oval border has a shield bearing an eagle, surmounted by the imperial crown above, and 00c in scroll intended for value below. On the left side is *EMPIRE FRANCAIS*, and on the right *TIMBRE-POSTE*. A similar stamp is impressed in bright-orange on excessively-thin tissue paper. Another, but very similar design, is on thicker paper. The oval is rather wider, has the same inscription at the sides, and value beneath, but the imperial crown is without supporting shield. This, as well as the profile of the emperor, is embossed in white on a bluish impression; but we understand the same pair of designs are repeated in a multiplicity of colours, and on various sorts of paper.

THURN & TAXIS, NORTH.—A representation of the newly issued low-priced envelope, for what is termed North Germany in postal parlance, follows. The impression was described in our last month's number.



HAMBURG.—In our enumeration of the 'names and colours' of the newly-issued envelopes of that city, the 7 sch. was erroneously described, from hearsay, as

magenta, in lieu of mauve, which ocular inspection proves it to be.

BRITISH HONDURAS.—We have just received a consignment of stamps from this country, and find the shilling to be *light*, not *dark-green*. The sheets of paper on which they are printed are not only unwatermarked but destitute of any inscription denoting value or country, which is sometimes printed, sometimes watermarked, round the margin; these simply bear the coloured cross so frequently seen. The penny stamps are in two blocks of sixty each, making one hundred and twenty in all; but the sixpenny and shilling occupy the same sheet, one half of which is assigned to each colour.

PRUSSIA.—The second fac-simile is that of one of the elaborately-designed pair of stamps chronicled at page 57 of the present volume. It will be seen that the bordering is filled in with shields bearing the Prussian eagle, and the central groundwork with no fewer than forty-two minute repetitions of the value in words. This stamp and its fellow are said to be purposed for other official monetary transactions besides that of registering letters.



BREMEN.—*Le Timbre-Poste* says the 5 sgr. of this city are now bright yellow-green; that

SPAIN has changed the lines of its 2c., 4c., and 12c., which are respectively bright-rose, bright-blue, and yellow; that

ITALY will emit a new 20 centesimi, on the 1st July, that its 40c. is now violet-rose; that

PORTUGAL, for the same day, is preparing a new series, values 5, 10, 80 and 120 reis, the first of which will be black, and the last blue; and that

BELGIUM launches its new 1 centime on the 1st of June.

NEW ZEALAND.—The rose-coloured fourpenny of this colony has enjoyed but a short reign, being now superseded by one of a vivid yellow, same line as the Swan River twopenny, and St. Lucia fourpenny.

ROME.—If report be true that a decimal coinage is about to be substituted for the current coinage of the Roman States, we may anticipate the supersession of the ex-

isting *badges*, as the boys on change used to call them, by a series corresponding with their values in francs and centimes.

PERU.—A correspondent acquaints us with the appearance of a perforated Peruvian stamp of the current issue. It will be seen elsewhere that new series are being prepared for this country as well as for Brazil.



DENMARK.—The large stamp which is here represented, as the translation of the Danish inscription testifies; is intended for payment of railway parcels. The one before us is light-brown printed on white. There is another in blue,

value 8 skillings, to carry five pounds weight. Both are perforated.

BARBADOS.—In the November number for last year (page 171), 'from information received,' we notified the change of the four-penny of this island, no value marked, from rosy to brick-red. It seems now to have reverted to its original tint; those we have just received being precisely as before, but the sixpenny is a vivid brick-red.

VICTORIA.—A correspondent informs us that the tenpenny stamp of this country has changed its dingy-green for brownish-red.

CONFEDERATE LOCALS.—Having enjoyed the privilege of inspecting a choice private collection, containing several specimens of peculiar rarity, which we had never before met with, or even heard of, we give a description of a triad of individuals. The first is a small square; double-lined border with corners slightly rounded; black, type-printed, on light-green; inscription, POST OFFICE, FIVE CENTS, MACON, GA. A second is an upright rectangle; an ornamental pattern formed of printers' bordering, same device as that of the so-called dotted ovals of blue provisional British Guianas, combined in various ways, forms the groundwork of the stamp, which is printed red on white; inscription, PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA, POST-OFFICE, 5 W. E. BASS, P. M. The third specimen is a

UNITED STATES LOCAL, circular, with very rough black xylographed impression on greenish paper. The device is a pigeon, with letter attached to its wing, flying to the right over mountains. This is encompassed by an inscription, OVERTON & CO., LETTER EXPRESS. We understand it was a Philadelphian.

SCOTCH LOCAL.—We are indebted to the attention of several correspondents for specimens of various individuals of the now overwhelming genus of railway and other local emanations, both Scotch and English, of which one of the former is here represented, which sufficiently tells its own tale, except that it exists both perforated and otherwise, that the colour is red-brown, lithographed on white; and that it is accompanied by a yellow twopenny.



ENGLISH RAILWAY LOCALS.—The North Eastern Railway affords us an ugly set, printed black on poor paper and perforated. The groundwork, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches by $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches, is formed by waved diagonal lines with a narrow border; a scroll above bears the name, and another below the words PREPAID NEWS-PAPER PARCEL. Three shields meet at their bases, and bearing, we conclude, the amalgamated armorial bearings of the represented counties or companies, occupy the centre, on which is the figure of *weight*, not value; in the specimen before us this is a 3 followed by the LB., and preceded by the figures 502075. Our informant gives the additional representatives of 6, 9, 12, 24, and 48 LBS., respectively.

A second stranger, unIntroduced in our list given last month, is as large as the preceding, but not perforated, and has the corners cut off by curves. Green lattice-work makes the ground, which has a narrow white border dotted with the same colour, and a white circle in the centre, obscurely figured with armorial insignia, the figure 2 and a small P in an undescribable frame, and surmounted by a griffin. MIDLAND RAILWAY above, LOCAL PREPAID PARCEL ON CORN OR COAL BUSINESS below, printed green; and on the left side a

number, in the example under description, 5882 in black figures.

The Great Eastern railway gives us a smaller and neater stamp, printed on better paper, and perforated. It is green on white, has in centre ONE NEWSPAPER $\frac{1}{2}$ D., black, in lozenge, surmounted and based by scrolls containing name; the whole encompassed by a simple fancy frame.

The Great Northern supplies a whole series of more elaborate but less tasty design. They are transverse rectangles, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches by 2 inches, perforated. A large octagon, formed by a fancy pattern printed green on white, contains armorial bearings in centre, and GREAT NORTHERN PREPAID NEWSPAPER PARCEL in upper and lower scrolls; 3 LBS., and TWOPENCE are impressed thereon in black; and the corners are completed by triangles patterned with green. Waterlow & Sons, London, own, beneath, to have lithographed this production. There are, it seems, in addition, same colour and device, a threepenny for six pounds weight, a fourpenny for twelve pounds, and a sixpenny, no weight expressed, we suppose intended for the full allowance thereof. There has existed, moreover, since New Year's day, a comrade impressed in vermilion, marked ONE NEWSPAPER; and value, though not indicated, one halfpenny.

The Midland Railway, additional to the one described above, emits a large rectangle, orange impression, bearing PREPAID NEWSPAPER PARCEL, 3 LBS.

The Bristol & Exeter Railway concludes the list for the present with a transverse oblong, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, impressed black on white. B. & E. R. in old English characters, and date above; then N^O.....NEWSPAPER PARCEL, FROM.....and HENRY DYKES, SUPTD. A large figure 1 with small D crosses this most uninteresting specimen.

THE SHANGHAI LOCAL POST-OFFICE STAMPS.

In the opening number of the present volume we first noticed the Shanghai stamps, which had but a short time previously appeared in Europe. We then expressed our doubts as to their genuine character, grounding our objections principally on the alleged fact

that no such a coin as a *candareen* was current in China. But just before going to press with that number we received information from a gentleman, resident in Shanghai, authenticating the statement of their issue and circulation there. We have since received a second letter from the same correspondent, giving a full and interesting account of these stamps, which we here append.

Shanghai, 8th March, 1866.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—In the January number of the *S. C. M.*, I notice your remarks on the Shanghai local postage stamps, and also that their genuineness is looked upon as rather doubtful at home. Of course I cannot answer for stamps I have not seen, but the ones forwarded to you by me (and to which no doubt your foot-note applies) are undoubtedly genuine.

Being on the spot, I may perhaps be able to give you a little information about these stamps, of interest both to yourself and readers, but should I make a mistake in the rendering of the Chinese characters I must crave indulgence, as I have been in China but a year, and, as you can well imagine, a very deep insight into the mysteries of the Chinese language is not to be obtained in that time.

Now as to the stamps. You say they are engraved, but this is not the case, as they are struck off by hand from wooden or ivory dies, doubtless made here by the natives: in fact, a few days ago, a friend of mine informed me that he went to the post-office for some stamps, and that, not having the ones he required already printed, they struck off some while he waited. As to the 'jumble' of the Chinese arms with the English inscription, I think that is because the local post-office is an European undertaking on Chinese territory; for it must be remembered that Shanghai does not belong to England, although a part of it has been 'conceded' to England by the Chinese for the purposes of trade; another and simpler reason may be, that the L. P. O. wanted a design to fill up the centre of the stamp, and decided upon the 'dragon' as being the most appropriate. You say truly that there is no such coin as a *candareen*, it is merely a *weight*; in fact, the only Chinese coin that I know of is the 'cash,' about thirteen of which are now equivalent to one *candareen*. Payments in business are here made by *weight* of silver or gold, and the different weights are as follows:—

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| | 1 <i>candareen</i> . |
| 10 <i>candareens</i> | 1 <i>mace</i> . |
| 10 <i>mace</i> | 1 <i>tael</i> . |

The *tael* weighs rather more than one ounce. As to the Chinese characters, I will now do my best to explain them. Those in the four corners, you will notice, are alike in all the stamps. The character in the right-hand top corner is 'Shang,' that on the left, 'hai,' *i. e.*,—Shanghai; the character in the right-hand bottom corner is 'Kung,' that on the left, 'Poo,' *i. e.*—Kung-poo, which is the Chinese name for the English municipal council here, by which of course you will see that the L. P. O. is one of the council's undertakings. The characters on the right-hand side of the stamp are also the same in all, and, reading from top to bottom, are 'Shu Shin Kwan,' translated literally, 'Book Letter Co.'

I will now take the left-hand characters. Beginning with the 1 *e.* stamp, and reading from top to bottom, I read—

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|--|
| 'Yiti Fun Yin,' | <i>i. e.</i> | One candareen silver. |
| 'Liang Fun Yin,' | " | Two " " |
| 'San Fun Yin,' | " | Three " " |
| 'Si Fun Yin,' | " | Four " " |
| 'Luh Fun Yin,' | " | Six " " |
| 'Pah Fun Yin,' | " | Eight " " |
| 'Yih T'sien urh Fun Yin,' | " | One mace, two candareens silver=12 candareens. |
| 'Yih T'sien luh Fun Yin,' | " | One mace, six candareens silver=16 candareens. |

In the 4 candareen stamps which I first sent over to you, and one of which I put in my collection, I notice a curious mistake. The Chinese characters on the left are 'Si T'sien Yin, *i. e.*, 4 mace silver, equal to 40 c. In the 4 c. stamps I now send you, however, the *T'sien* has been altered to *Fun*, so that now the Chinese and English values correspond, which they did not before.

You will also perceive that the colours of the 4, 8, and 16 c. stamps are slightly different to those previously sent you, and also that the value on these is spelt 'candareen,' whilst on the others it was 'candareens.' The 3, 6, and 12 c. stamps have been issued only lately, I believe, and I should not be surprised to see the colours changed at no far distant period, as at present these three are almost identical in that respect, which must have the effect of considerably retarding the usually quick process of obliterating the stamps at the post-office.

Trusting that the above may, in some measure, help you out of your difficulty with regard to the Shanghai local postage stamps,

I am, dear sir,

Yours very truly,

STAMPEDE.

The three new values to which our correspondent refers, viz., 3, 6, and 12 candareens, are all printed in one colour—chocolate, the last named is of rather a lighter shade. The entire set now, therefore, consists of—

- | | | |
|----|------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | candareen, | blue. |
| 2 | " | black. |
| 3 | " | chocolate. |
| 4 | " | dark-yellow, bright-yellow. |
| 6 | " | chocolate. |
| 8 | " | bright-green, dull-green. |
| 12 | " | chocolate. |
| 16 | " | dull-red, crimson. |

This series is interesting as the only specimens of celestial stamp engraving, and, as might be expected, from such old hands at wood-block engraving as the Chinese, the design is, in most specimens, pretty clear. They are printed on slips of paper containing six impressions about half an inch apart. Thin wove paper was used at first for all the values, but the lately-received 4 c. bright-yellow is on a thicker laid paper. The only one of the set which is adhesive is the 1 c., for the rest purchasers must find their own gum.

The uses of the candareen stamps are notified by the following official advertisement, in the *North China Daily News*, a Shanghai paper, obligingly forwarded by 'Stampede.'

LOCAL POST-OFFICE.

It is notified for general information, that since the 15th ultimo, all letters, circulars, newspapers, &c., sent to the local post-office for 'town delivery' are charged at the rate of one candareen each.

To non-subscribers the following rates will, as heretofore, be charged for mail matter dispatched to, and received from, the River, Coast, and Japan ports.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Letters and packages—Native or | |
| Foreign,..... | 1 oz. and under..... 3 candareens. |
| Do. above 1 .. | and under 2 oz. 6 " |
| Do. above 2 .. | and under 4 12 " |
| Newspapers and printed circulars, | 2 candareens. |

For every additional or fractional part of an ounce, 3 candareens.

With a view of ensuring security in the delivery of letters, a branch has been opened at Ningpo.

By order of the council,

ALEX. JOHNSTON,

Secretary.

COUNCIL ROOM,
Shanghai, 4th Dec., 1865.

It will be observed that this notice makes no mention of the 8 c., 12 c., or 16 c. stamps, perhaps because the rate was by this notice lowered. Another notice appears in the same paper under the heading of 'Municipal Council Notifications,' and is as follows—

LOCAL POST-OFFICE.

No. 22.—New postage stamps having been received from England will be in use on and from this date; persons holding old stamps can have them exchanged for new, upon application to the manager of the local post-office.

By order of the council,

ALEX. JOHNSTON,

Secretary

COUNCIL ROOM,
Shanghai, 5th March, 1866.

The stamps here referred to are evidently those described in our February and figured in our April number, and for which we have little hesitation in giving Messrs. De la Rue and Co. credit. The few specimens already seen in this country are, doubtless, those obtained by special favour from them. They are, facially, a great advance on their predecessors, but have not the special circumstance of Chinese manufacture to recommend them.

The first notice above given was, doubtless, one continuously inserted since December 1865, and must have given place, ere this, to a revised table of rates to suit the new 'cent' stamps. We do not see the advantage of substituting a coin for a weight,

when, as our correspondent states, and as appears by the paper he sends, payments are in the majority of cases, made by weight. The number of stamps is also reduced from eight in the old, to four in the new issue, which consists of—

| | |
|----------|--------|
| 2 cents, | rose. |
| 4 „ | lilac. |
| 8 „ | blue. |
| 16 „ | green. |

We may add, to save our readers the trouble of reckoning, that 1 candareen silver—the hundredth part of a tael (or ounce)—is worth, to speak roughly, seven-tenths of a penny.

WINGED LETTER CARRIERS.

MAGNETIC electricity for telegraphic purposes has nearly superseded pigeons. Till very recently a regular 'service' of carrier pigeons existed between London and Paris, for the quick conveyance of such intelligence as was likely to affect the funds. The French capital was the focus of the system, in exemplification of the adage that 'all roads lead to Paris,' and pigeon expresses branched off in all directions from that city, even to St. Petersburg. Relays of them are still kept up between Paris and Madrid, besides a few other places. The most celebrated relays of winged messengers were those which bore intelligence between Antwerp, Brussels, and Paris. In the former city a society of pigeon-fanciers, for amusement and emulation, keeps up an establishment of them. Their doings are amusingly chronicled in Kohl's last book of Travels, *Reisen in den Neiderlanden*.

Having been invited to join some members of the Society of Antwerp Pigeon Fanciers, he wended his way about five o'clock one morning through the silent streets of the ancient city. A few members of the association, he says, who directed the expedition, were followed by servants carrying two flat baskets, in which the pigeons, about to be dispatched, were carefully deposited. As we proceeded along, my companions related to me some particulars concerning the carrier pigeons, or '*pigeons voyageurs*,' as these winged mes-

sengers are designated. The carriers are a peculiar race of pigeons endowed with powers of memory and observation which enable them to find their way to any place by a course along which they have once flown. Every kind of pigeon is not capable of being taught to do this. Of the methods adopted by the Antwerp association for training and teaching these carriers, I learnt the following particulars.

Supposing a dispatch of pigeons is to be sent off from Antwerp to Brussels or Paris, the birds are kept for some time at the place of arrival or terminus, and during that interval are plentifully fed and carefully tended. By little excursive flights, taken day by day, they are gradually familiarised with different parts of the town in which they have been nurtured, and with places in its vicinity. When sufficiently practised in finding their way to short distances, the pigeons are conveyed to a station some leagues from their dove-cote. Here they are kept for a time without food, and then set to flight. On taking wing, they rapidly soar to a vast height, scanning the line of the horizon to discern the church spires, or other lofty points which enable them to distinguish their home. Some of the less intelligent birds lose their way, and are seen no more. Those who return home (to Paris, or wherever else it may be), are again plentifully fed. Then after a little space of time they are carried in baskets some miles further in the direction of Antwerp; again they are put on a short allowance of food and negligently tended. When the pigeons depart on their next flight, the Parisian church spires have sunk far beneath the horizon; however, they soon succeed in combining that portion of the route with which they are acquainted with the part as yet unknown to them. They hover round and round in the air, seeking to catch one or other thread that is to guide them through the labyrinth. Some find it; others do not.

In this manner the carrier pigeons are practised bit by bit along the whole distance between Paris and Antwerp. They attentively observe, or study and learn by heart, each conspicuous object which serves them

as a land-mark on the way. It is usual to exercise particular pigeons between the two cities, which it is wished to connect by this sort of postal communication; and it is necessary to have a certain number for going, and others for returning. After the birds have been accustomed to inhabit a certain district, and to travel by a particular route, it is not found easy to divert them from their wonted course, and to make them available in any other direction.

My friends, the members of the Antwerp Society, assured me that their pigeons had frequently flown from Paris to Antwerp in six or seven hours; consequently in a much shorter time than that in which the same journey is performed by the railway train. By bird's flight, the distance between the two cities is forty miles (German*), and therefore it follows that these carrier pigeons must travel at the rate of from twenty to thirty English miles an hour. It is scarcely conceivable that they should possess the strength of wing and vigour of lungs requisite for such a flight; and it is no unfrequent occurrence for several of them to die on arriving at their journey's end. In stormy weather the loss of two-thirds of the birds dispatched on such a long flight, is a disaster always to be counted on. It is, therefore, usual to send off a whole flock, all bearing the same intelligence, so as to ensure the chance of one at least reaching its destination.

Pigeons are not suited for postal communications between places so remote one from another that the journey cannot be completed in a single day. If it can be accomplished in one flight, so much the better. Antwerp and Paris are, I believe, the extreme points of distance within which carrier pigeons are capable of journeying with certainty.

Herr Kohl gives no account of these stations or stages. We once saw one at Montrieu, the first station beyond Dover, towards Paris. The town stands on a high eminence, and is well adapted for the purpose. The cote was on the roof of a *café*. It was a square apartment with a flat ceiling, in which

* The German mile includes nearly three and a half English miles.

was cut a small door or trap: on the inside of this was fixed a small bell. If a Dover pigeon had alighted on the trap, the bell would have rung, and called the attention of an attendant always in waiting. The pigeon would have been secured, the dispatch taken from under its wing, and the messenger put into its cage. In a twinkling the ciphered paper would be fastened under the wing of the Beauvias or Apeins pigeon and it would be sent off. On arriving at its destination, the same formula would be gone through, and the Paris pigeon would take the dispatch to its destination. Although several pigeons, even in fine weather, are entrusted with the same message, two seldom arrive at the common destination at the same time, so that at each place the operation we have described is frequently repeated, in order that at least one of many dispatches may be certain of arriving at the destination.

These establishments were costly. Besides the great number of pigeons necessary to be kept at each station some of the single birds were valuable. Fifty and sixty pounds was sometimes given for a clever pigeon. Those between Dover and Montrieu, and *vice versé*, were among the most valuable, for none but sharp-sighted messengers could find their way across the Channel; few flights were sent away without some members of it being lost.

But to return to the Antwerp pigeons—and to Mr. Kohl. Having, he continues, reached the open, elevated spot before mentioned, the flat baskets carried by the servants were uncovered, and the little *voyageurs* rapidly winged their way upwards. The intelligence they were to convey to Paris was written in little billets, fastened under their wings. The pigeons I saw sent off had been brought in covered baskets from Paris, and were as yet totally unacquainted with Antwerp and its environs. Their ignorance of the locality was manifest in the wavering uncertainty of their movements when they first took wing. On rising into the air, they gathered closely together, like foreigners in a strange country, and presently they steered their course along the confines of the city, in a direction quite contrary to that of Paris. They then soared

upwards, spirally, and after several irregular movements (during which they seemed to be looking for the right way, and hesitating which course to take), they all suddenly darted off to south-west, directing their rapid flight straight to Paris, as if gladly quitting inhospitable Antwerp, where they had been scantily fed and carelessly tended.

As soon as the birds were fairly out of sight, the pigeon-trainers proceeded homeward, not a little gratified by the conviction that their fleet messengers, with the intelligence they bore under their wings, would outstrip the speed of a railway train which had started some time before them.

The members of the Antwerp pigeon-training society, whom I accompanied on the occasion above described, were citizens of the middle class of society. But in Belgium, pigeon-training has its attractions even for persons of rank and wealth, many of whom are enthusiastic pigeon fanciers; indeed pigeon-flying is as fashionable an amusement in Belgium as horse-racing in England. Prizes, consisting of sums of money as high as sixty thousand francs, are frequently won in matches of pigeons—to say nothing of the betting to which those matches give occasion.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

RATHER HARD.—An American, complaining of the 'infernal revenue system,' says he can't put his boot on without a stamp.—*Public Opinion*.

A TRANSLATION FROM THE CHINESE.—In a recent number of *Le Collectionneur* the following explanation, on the authority of M. de Rosny, professor of oriental languages in the imperial school, tells the meaning of the Chinese inscription on the candareen stamps. The characters in the upper angles combined signify *Chang-hai*, those in the lower angles *Kuang-pou*, literally, office of (public) works; the inscription on the right signifies *Chou sin Kouan*—post office, and that on the left *heang-fen-in two fen* (candareens). The value of a *fen* is about three-farthings. On the new Shanghai stamps with value in cents, the inscriptions are all precisely the same, except that on the left sides, which is of course changed in order to signify the new denomination.

TWENTY THOUSAND LETTERS or MORE arrive at the chief office every day without any street or number being written on the outside—simply Mr. So and So, London. Fifty thousand postage stamps are every year found in the letter-bags and boxes, rubbed by friction from the letters and newspapers to which they had been imperfectly cemented. One newspaper in about five thousand slips from its cover through careless fastening, and comes to grief; for the sorters do not know which covers belong to which newspapers.

Without noticing the country post-offices, or even the 1100 receptacles for letters which now exist in the metropolis, city men send to the chief office alone two hundred letters every day entirely unsealed and unfastened. Some letters have no address, either on the inside or outside.—*Once a Week*.

SHANGHAI POSTAL REGULATIONS.—We extract the following official notice of postal regulations from the *North China Daily News*. Their peculiarities render them of interest.

'The mail for the Southern ports, the Straits, India, Australia, Europe, and America, per contract packet—

—will close on Thursday, the 8th instant, at 6 p.m.. Boxes, containing the correspondence of box holders, will be received at the windows. All correspondence for places to which prepayment is compulsory, must be prepaid in Hongkong postage stamps; *and no obliteration of stamps by chops of names of senders, or by any other means, will be permitted, such matter being treated as if unpaid*. Insufficiently-stamped letters addressed to the United Kingdom, the United States of America and France, will be forwarded on, to be dealt with at the General Post-office, Hongkong. Insufficiently stamped *and unstamped* correspondence addressed to places to which they cannot be forwarded unpaid, will be handed back to the senders, *if known*, or if received before 6 p.m., otherwise they will be forwarded to Hongkong. All transactions will be conducted in Mexican dollars, and no sterling money above the value of two shillings will be received. A supplementary receipt of correspondence, bearing stamps, and those for Hongkong, and the Continent of Europe via Marseilles, unstamped, will take place from 8 to 9 p.m. *It is particularly requested that postage stamps be applied for by residents upon any other than the day of closing the mail.*

NOTE.—The 'chops of names of senders' is intended to mean the private hand-stamps with which many commercial houses in that quarter are in the habit of obliterating their letters.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE 'RIGI-KALTBAD' STAMP.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I hope to be able to give you some information as to the Rigi-Kaltbad stamp, an engraving of which you gave in your magazine for May. The Rigi-Kaltbad is a large establishment on the slope of the Rigi, where numbers go to spend the summer, and enjoy the mountain air and scenery; and the stamp in question was made for the postal service on the mountain, which is out of the course of the ordinary mails, and in the hands of some one I believe connected with the hotel. This I heard from a stamp dealer at Lucerne a few days ago, and I think it may be relied on as correct. How your correspondent in the February number received the stamp on a letter in England I do not know, as it was only intended for local purposes.

I notice in your April number that a correspondent desires information as to which is the best adhesive mixture for mounting stamps in an album; and in a note you remark that when once a stamp is gummed into a book 'there it must remain, at the risk of utter destruction.' I think you are hardly right in this, as it will be found that a piece of wet blotting-paper, of the same size as the stamp to be taken out, will, when laid upon it, remove it without difficulty. This plan I have tried for some time, and find it answer well.

Hoping that what I have to offer may be of some use,

I remain, sir, yours respectfully,

A STAMP COLLECTOR.

Bonn, on the Rhine.

LITHOGRAPHED SPANISH STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—In your April number of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, a correspondent (signing J. J. M.) remarks about Spanish lithographed stamps—the $\frac{1}{2}$ onza and 1 libra. They were brought over to me from Spain three years ago, which proves their genuine character. They are both obliterated. The 1 libra is obliterated by smudged parallel bars, but the $\frac{1}{2}$ onza is only smudged, and in the obliteration, which covers very little of the stamp, I can trace no signs of the parallel bars. I can fully corroborate all your correspondent, J. J. M., says about the $\frac{1}{2}$ onza and 1 libra, but he has not mentioned the following differences which I find in my copies.

LITHOGRAPH.

1. The right hand side leaf of the crown is wanting, and the pearls above appear to be falling off.
2. There is no stop after onza (in the $\frac{1}{2}$ onza).
3. The jewels round the crown are invisible.

ENGRAVED.

1. The right hand side leaf is perfect, and the pearls above are larger and better formed.
2. There is one.
3. The jewels are very distinct.

The paper of the $\frac{1}{2}$ onza is much darker in the lithographed, being a deep chrome. I had a copy of the 4 cuartos 1864, sent me from Spain as soon as it came out. It is unused, and though it does not differ at all from the ordinary 4 c. in the design, it is much rougher and more blotched. Perhaps some of your readers may be able to account for this.

I now sign myself,

CURIOSITY.

ADHESIVE MATTER FOR MOUNTING STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—Amongst 'Notes and Queries, by an Amateur,' in the April number of your magazine, is a remark on the difficulty all stamp collectors must more or less have experienced, with regard to the best method of affixing specimens in albums, &c., and he expresses a hope that any correspondent who has experience in the matter, will give it *pro bono pub.* I hope this will elicit a variety of answers, from some at least of which hints, useful to all, may be obtained. Meanwhile I would suggest, as the result of my own experience for some years past, that nothing I have yet heard of can (to my mind) compare with *liquid India rubber*, or as it is sometimes called *India rubber cement*. The advantages of this preparation are manifold, *e.g.*, first—its cleanliness; second—its adhesiveness; third—its easy removal if required; and fourth—its leaving no stain whatever, either on the paper or on the stamp itself. It is also very cheap, enough to last for years being procurable for a shilling. The method of application is, a small quantity (about the size of a pin's head) at each corner of the stamp, and, when required, the point of a knife inserted beneath will remove the stamp without any difficulty. So much for stamps fixed in books. But I would suggest that all who are engaged, not only in *collecting*, but more especially in *studying* stamps and their history, would do well to have them moveable, *e.g.*, mounted either on glass or cardboard. If the latter, a round hole should be punched in the cardboard, less than the size of the stamp, for the purpose of showing numerals at back, watermarks, &c., &c.

I am writing in great haste to save the post, and cannot therefore add more, but I am not without hope some use may be made of the hints above given.

I remain, dear sir, yours faithfully,

H. R. J.

WHERE SHALL WE DRAW THE LINE?

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—As I have no doubt you would wish to make complete your list of railway stamps, I enclose you one of the Great Eastern, emitted two or three weeks since, which you have not included amongst those described in the May number.

To me (as a young collector) these railway stamps appear quite as legitimate tenants of the album as the Hamburg, American, or any other locals. Of course bill and receipt stamps can come in only under a very comprehensive, *i. e.*, indiscriminate arrangement. Telegraph franks seem to occupy a sort of debatable ground between the ranks of legitimate and illegitimate; but as they are not intended to be attached to that which is transmitted (the distinguishing characteristic of postage stamps), I do not see how they are fairly to be brought in, even as allies. If they are admitted, the door is open for endless varieties of tickets—railway, steamboat, turnpike, and the like. These remarks I venture to offer to Mr. Pemberton's consideration. With the exception of the *railway* stamps, his view appears to me exceedingly just; and in confirmation (if that were needed) of his statement that *supply* in these matters will always keep pace with demand, I would call attention to the fact that an eminent firm of stamp dealers (whom I will call Y & Z) actually include in their catalogue, along with other English stamps of private firms, &c., Messrs. Y & Z's own stamps (clearly manufactured for this express purpose), of the nominal values of 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., and 1s., and catalogued at the decidedly remunerative prices of 4d., 6d., 9d., 1/1, 1/6, and 3/, respectively! Further, to increase the supply there is another set on 'blue paper,' another on 'yellow paper,' and another on 'lilac,' at the same prices; and I have no doubt the sale is sufficient (for what is there in this world that cannot find its *collectors*?) to induce the enterprising firm to pursue still further this 'ringing of the changes' to the gratification of their patrons, and no little satisfaction of themselves.

Yours obediently,

A NEW SUBSCRIBER.

King's Lynn.

NEW STAMPS FOR PERU AND BRAZIL.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—I recently had the good fortune to visit the establishment of the American Bank-Note Company, at New York, and during my tour of inspection, under the guidance of the president thereof, saw one or two things which, I think, will be of interest to philatelists, unless my 'news' shall, in some way, be anticipated, which I think unlikely. In a word, Brazil and Peru are to have new stamps, and the rumour mentioned in the magazine in regard to the former, so long ago as December 1864, is now an accomplished fact. I saw sheets of these stamps passing out from the press in the printing room, and others undergoing perforation in the perforating room, but as I viewed the tantalizing sight for a few moments only, and asked no questions, I am unable to give you full particulars of the issues, but only the result of my momentary glances. I noticed three types of the Brazil stamp, each differing somewhat in design, and containing, in different positions, a head, which I took to be that of the Brazilian emperor; the colours being green, black, and purple. The Peru stamp, printed in green, contained the arms of the country as usual, but displayed to much better advantage than ever before. Both issues cannot fail to be welcomed by philatelists, and to be acknowledged as the greatest improvements upon their predecessors.

A few words regarding the stamps of the United States. The new 9 c., 18 c., and 30 c. envelopes may have been 'manufactured especially by government for use by Messrs. Wells, Fargo, & Co.,' as stated in your February number, but they certainly were *not* issued *exclusively* for them, nor do they all bear their frank-mark, as was at least implied in the same article, but may be purchased without it, like the other values of envelopes. Again, in the new issue of 12 c., 24 c., and 40 c. envelopes, the type does *not* remain the same as before, as stated in your April issue, but is considerably changed, though it follows the old design, as you can see at once by comparing the two issues. I make this statement from a comparison of the two 40's, and, as 'from one judge all,' I trust I am not mistaken in the case of the 12 and 24 c.

The 6 c. envelope has been printed in brown as well as lilac, on both white and buff paper in each case, and the 3 c. envelope is current still in rose as well as in brown, the former being the more common, the latter used on the 'official' sized envelopes; each on both white and buff paper. A 15 c. adhesive stamp, bearing the head of the late president Lincoln, has just been issued, and the specimen I send you obviates the necessity of my describing it; the portrait I may say is a remarkably good one.

I remain, sir, yours respectfully,

L. H. B.

West Springfield, Mass., U. S.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

S. X., Southampton.—Your 5 piastres Turkish seems a faded specimen of the rose coloured, not the brown.

Mr. S. G., Newport, Rhode Island, U. S.—We have sent you the missing copies of the April, and the additional copy of the May number. We will send you four copies of this and the following seven numbers (41 to 48) which will exhaust your remittance. A single annual subscription from the United States is one dollar in gold.

H. M., Halifax, Nova Scotia.—Your Victoria shilling stamp belongs to the new series for that colony. It is not at all rare, being the only stamp of that value now in use.—The shilling stamps of the first series of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are still scarce, and therefore command high prices.

C. W., Sheffield.—The 2 soldi yellow of Venetia (large head) is a catalogued stamp, but neither the 30 soldi green, nor 15 soldi blue, of the same series. These letters, however, exist on *envelopes*, cuttings from which were perhaps the ones offered you at such an exorbitant price.

L. B., West Springfield, Mass.—Many thanks for your kind communications which shall be transferred to our pages.

E. P. A.—We reproduced your description of New South Wales novelty in the unedited stamps department last month.

ACCURACY.—We confess with shame to inattention to your pseudonym.—Trusting the high authority of Dr. Magnus, we did not take the trouble of verifying his statement that the early and later green 4 pfennings of Prussia were from the same plate.—In a response to E. J. W., moreover, in April, we impeached the accuracy of M. Levraut as to the 1858 impression being on white paper. That author is quite right in so stating, and you are equally right in affirming, that two different dies must have been employed. The head of the originals and of the reprints is identical with those of the first series. That of the later stamps tallies with the set of like date; both the vermilions, however, appear printed from the same plate.

A BOSTON COLLECTOR.—We quite agree with your suggestion, that the only way to avoid being imposed upon by unprincipled dealers, is to transact business only with those who are known to be respectable. We are afraid there are as many fraudulent vendors of stamps as of any other article of commerce.

ITALIA, Cambridge.—By some stupidity of designer or engraver the original 1 centesimo newspaper stamp of Italy was misprinted *cent*. Your specimen therefore, though ungrammatical, is perfectly genuine.—We cannot account for the partial withdrawal of the altered nine-penny English.

E. E. H., London.—The Wenden stamps belong to the Russian province of Livonia, for a full account of which, and its stamps, we refer you to the April number of last year's magazine.

A PUZZLED COLLECTOR.—The penny English with two, and that with four letters at the angles, most decidedly form two distinct representatives of their value. Collectors are divided in opinion as to the admissibility of perforated and unperforated varieties; but that of the majority favours the double adoption. We consider them, ourselves, two distinct editions of an issue.—The colours and values of the current square Capes are identical with those of the superseded triangles, except that the green is lighter and the red more rosy.—The first set of Turkish stamps has been long obsolete.—As *poste locale* is French we conclude the words *5 paras* on the blue Turkish local are intended for French also, not English.—The stamp you describe is one of the 1845 envelopes of Finland. We cannot tell why Russian characters were not employed for that stamp and its companion.

F. H., Bridge-water.—We believe the Dutch stamp alluded to in our last, is employed also for bills, receipts, &c., which would account for your specimen being on better paper than our own, which we ourselves tore off a newspaper in Amsterdam.—The stamp-emitting island of Prince Edward, is one of our North American possessions. Lallier's geography is rather misty.—Thanks for your perforatory information, which we will quote elsewhere.—The stamp presented our subscribers last month is a Turkish local.—The hexagonal framed earlier sixpenny of New South Wales vary in hue: there are three or four distinct shades of light-brown, and one or two of slate-green, sometimes even almost as bright as the fivepenny. We have two shades of the former perforated. Of the current violets, there are light, dark, and intermediate shades, but none unperforated.

A NEW SUBSCRIBER, King's Lynn.—Thanks for the newspaper stamp, which we quote and describe in our article on novelties.

A. J. H., Rugby.—The preceding acknowledgment applies in your case also.

E. C. G., Swansea.—Many thanks for your information, of which we have availed ourselves in two ways.

W. E., St. Neots.—We are much indebted for the trouble you have taken to put us *au fait* in so much stamp news.

AUDI ALTERAM PARTEM, Cambridge.—This correspondent describes a stamp as follows, requesting information ament. Rectangular; profile to right in oval frame, 2 in each corner; POSTA on the left, ROMANA on the right, DONA PARALE above; colour yellow on white paper.—We do not think he will get a genuine V. R. under the quoted price.

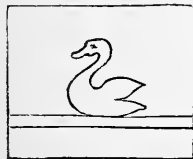
F. C., Cornhill.—The 8 pies of India being *primarily* destined for newspapers would not militate against its employment for letter postage.—The V. R. is black.—Your specimen is one of the English penny stamps, superseded by the current one.

POSTAGE-STAMP PAPER & WATER-MARKS.

(Continued from page 83).

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—All the stamps of this country emitted since 1861, perforated or otherwise, however varied the hue of the stamp, bear the star watermark. The successive issues must in this case be distinguished by the different colours.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—Most of the old issues of this colony, whatever the design, are watermarked with a swan very similar to that of the impression.



This watermark sometimes corresponds exactly with it, which enhances the difficulty of recognition. At other times the watermark is found

perpendicular to the impression.

The current series differs from the preceding, not only in colour but in watermark. If the swan re-appears on the penny stamps, it is replaced by the double C and crown on the yellow twopenny and carmine fourpenny. This circumstance is of the greatest importance as regards the latter, distinguishing it, in addition to a slight variation in tint and circular perforations, from an old carmine fourpenny either unperforated or marked by the roulette, and which, like the other stamps of its date, must be watermarked with a swan.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND, OR TASMANIA.—The earliest series, comprising a penny blue and fourpenny orange (or brown), bears no watermark. The second, with queen's full-face portrait, emitted in 1860, has its first issue on toned paper with a star: one penny, deep-red; twopence, deep-green; fourpence, deep-blue: a second, which, except the penny, is unwatermarked: and a third, that has for watermark a large double-lined figure corresponding with the stamp's value. The shilling stamp is distinguished by the number 12.

NEW ZEALAND.—The solitary one-typed series of this country has been printed on several sorts of paper, establishing a pretty considerable number of issues.

The earliest in date, according to all

catalogues, was on bluish paper. It comprehends three stamps (besides the mythical sixpenny): one penny, red; twopence, blue; one shilling, green. These stamps are unwatermarked.

Immediately after them we place a set on thick white paper without watermark, consisting of four stamps: one penny, dull-red; twopence, pale-blue; sixpence, tawny-brown; one shilling, bluish-green.

Then comes an issue, probably in 1860, on toned paper, star-watermarked and comprising five values: one penny, vermilion; twopence, blue; threepence, violet; sixpence, brown; one shilling, yellow-green. There exist several varieties of tints in this set, but all, up to this time, unperforated. Then come the bright-blue twopenny; the brown sixpenny; and the green shilling, perforated, and still watermarked with the star.

Perhaps before these should be placed an issue on thinner paper, containing the violet-blue twopenny of 1863, a brown sixpenny, both unperforated, and a shilling perforated both by the roulette and otherwise. The paper of this latter is bluish on the reverse, and seems to have been in early use. This group is unwatermarked.

Finally, the stamps that appeared at the close of 1864 or beginning of 1865 have the letters *x. z.*, the initials of the colony. Of this set we know the vermilion unperforated penny, the bright-blue twopenny, and reddish-brown sixpenny, both perforated; and the green shilling with and without perforations.



[In addition may be cited a blue perforated twopenny, which we should have supposed to have been printed on blue paper, had we not the whole sheet, the margin of which is white. The paper must therefore have been porous and spread the dye. The impression, moreover, is peculiarly indistinct, the crown is indistinguishable as such, looking like a turban, and the whole stamp has a muzzy appearance. This variety we received in 1864. The *N. Z.* set appears to be already obsolete

in some instances, as we lately received the penny scarlet, twopenny blue, well printed, perhaps with a new die; together with the fourpenny, both rose and yellow, all perforated, and all with the star watermark].

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—No watermark, but simply white or bluish paper and a blue or black impression distinguishing the successive issues of large figures. The carmine and pale-rose varieties of the stamp bearing the effigy of Kanehamcha IV. are on laid paper, as also some of the recent emissions of temporary stamps with figure in centre.

BRITISH AMERICA.—The stamps of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Canada, Prince Edward Island, and the original British Columbia are unwatermarked. The first series of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia is on bluish, the essays on very thin paper. [The two stamps for Vancouver's Island, and the British Columbian current one, have the double C and crown].

Canada presents on its envelopes an arrangement analogous to that which we shall indicate respecting those of the United States. The legend here, however, is disposed thus, CA. P. O. D., reproduced in a diagonal line, and the number of oblique lines separating the rows of inscription is at least six instead of two. The letters CA. P. O. D. signify Canada Post-Office Department.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—On our own triangular threepenny we have seen traces of a watermark which we think looks like a bunch of heraldic flowers, but which it was impossible for us to reproduce. We have never discovered this appearance on any other threepenny we have ever been able to procure.

The penny and fivepenny, originally issued on toned paper without watermark, now appear on a thinner paper, showing the pattern all through, and greatly differing in colour from the former. [This applies to the fivepenny only: the colour of the other and texture of its paper having always been unvarying: we have received them since the apparition of the new issue, and they seem fac-similes of the originals].

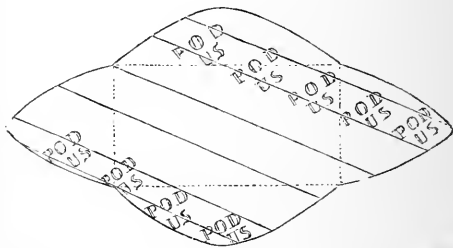
The vermilion and lake series of the

other stamps (of which latter no eightpenny ever came out) also bear no watermark.

[None of the superseded series were perforated. The handsome current set have this improvement; but, like their predecessors, are unwatermarked].

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.—No stamp of this country bears a watermark, and all are on white paper. But is not the remarkable perfection of the design the greatest obstacle to the imitation of these stamps?

The American envelopes are fabricated on a paper watermarked as follows: the



capital letters P. O. D. are on one line; below them are the letters U. S. The same inscription is reproduced at small intervals in an oblique line as far as the end of the paper. A pair of oblique lines pass, one through the letters P. and U., and the other through the letter D. of all the successive inscriptions. Two more diagonal lines separate the row of letters just described from another row absolutely identical, and so on. Out of such paper is the envelope cut, and it may be readily imagined how the chances of cutting mutilate the inscription in various ways. This watermark is found both on white and buff paper. The letters U. S. mean United States; and P. O. D., Post Office Department. We shall signalize, moreover, in the interior of the 1 and 3 c. envelope, representing 4 cents, a trio of black bands typographed, below and across which we read PAT. NOV. 1855. These are so arranged as to form lines showing through the face of the envelope, on which to write the address. The inscription is found inside almost the entire series of United States envelopes, and we have seen

proofs of the Canadian envelopes bearing the same.

We can say nothing at present about the watermarks of the private-office stamps of the United States. The rarity of the veritable impressions, the large number, and want of authentication of so many of them, induce us to pass them by, and leave their elucidation for another opportunity.

CONFEDERATE STATES.—No watermark; and all on white paper, except the Blockade Postage [which last are veritable impostors].

MEXICO.—No watermark here also. The second series is on coloured paper. The eagle stamps are on thicker paper, and, consequent on defective management of the plate, are tinged with colour at the sides of the impression.

(To be continued).

REFLECTIONS ON THE SYDNEY STAMPS.

BY FENTONIA.

(Continued from page 52).

ANOTHER suggestion with regard to the mysterious letters inscribed on the bale of goods which forms Britannia's seat is, that the letters are really intended for NO. C.—Nova Cambria, the same as on the circle of the 'picture.' We have, however, only met with three solitary specimens having the (supposed) O open on the right side, so as to resemble a C, therefore we do not lay much stress on the discovery. The only argument which can be urged in its support is, the well-known liability to run of the coloured ink used in printing or stamping from an engraved die, which, owing to the extreme minuteness of the letters, might easily occur.

There are, probably, no stamps respecting which the ideas of collectors have been so mystified; and about which information has been so defective. Many will perhaps have forgotten the very *edifying* description of these 'picture' stamps which was published some three years since, in the *Stamp-Collector's Review*, and which it would then have been thought almost high treason to have called in question. It ran thus:—

'Among other remarkable and curious stamps, New South Wales has a view of

Sydney, and natives presenting a palm branch to some personage seated in an arm-chair on the sea shore.'

The following month we find Dr. Gray (*Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. i., p. 26) cautiously groping his way into a clearer comprehension of the postal trio, but prudently avoiding any opinion as to the subject represented; like commentators,

'Who each dark passage shun,
And hold a farthing candle to the sun.'

But we believe he shunned the 'dark passage' wisely. He could not pin his faith to the arm-chair on the sea shore, and yet might not have been prepared to contradict it. At the same time his 'farthing candle' burnt steadily and clearly in the right direction, and both collectors and cataloguers are greatly indebted to him for their first lucid ideas respecting the minutiae of these curious stamps. We next (vol. ii., p. 79) manage to discover who was the Latin poet alluded to by Dr. Gray, from whom the New Cambrian motto was borrowed, viz., Publius Virgilius Maro—*anglicè*, Virgil. This ultimately led to our working out the theory, that the subjects of the four *Georgics* were more or less embodied in the Sydney 'picture,' which we have sufficiently demonstrated in the course of these reflections.

Dr. Gray mentions a report that there is a penny red with horizontal lines instead of dots in the spandrels, but as he has never given any further tidings of it, and as we have never met with it in our researches, we suppose it is a myth. There is a blue two-penny without clouds, as well as a penny red, which does not seem to have been hitherto recognized; not the type No. 1 of Dr. Gray, 'spandrels white' (if viewed without a magnifier), but a really well-executed variety. In giving an opinion that these stamps were probably first used in 1851 (and in this we nearly tally with Mount Brown), we omitted to notice the positive assertion, at page 191, of vol. ii., that they were actually in use at the latter end of 1848; and professing, as it does, to come direct from Sydney, it certainly seems worthy of credence. We have yet much to learn respecting these quaint labels. Perhaps these reflections may eventually pioneer the way to more indubitable facts.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

BY AN AMATEUR.

REUNION.—The hitherto practically unattainable stamps of this island are now reprinted; and to be had, six of them in a sheet, for a mere trifle. To M. Moens, of Brussels, the stamp-loving community are indebted (as he advertizes openly in *Le Timbre-Poste*) for the reprint. The original types have been again set together for this reprint, but show minute differences inseparable from this course of procedure, which are especially visible in the bordering. The resemblance to the priceless original issue is very good; quite sufficient to deceive, unless the fact were known that the paper of the former has a glazed shiny surface; while the new comers are on a dull paper without any trace of glazing. Need we further caution our readers not to confound the new impostors with the veritable Simon Pure, or warn them not to be deceived by unscrupulous vendors into paying high prices for these comparatively worthless reprints. While M. Moens would, we are sure, disclaim all idea or intention of palming off this rubbish for the real stamps, we cannot help feeling that he has put the means of easy deception and fraud into the hands of others. We hope when he sees how far cheating can avail itself of such a system, he will at once and for ever abandon it.

UNITED STATES.—The compiler of the notices of new stamps seems to have mistaken the device on each side of the new 15 cents engraved on page 88 of last month's number; and casts about for a fanciful analogy or plausible reason for his supposed 'broken pillars.' The 'broken or unfinished pillars' are neither more nor less than the classic *fusces* borne by the lictors before the consuls in the ancient republic of Rome. The scroll work above hides what appears to be part of the axe (*securis*), which prior to the expulsion of the Tarquins, and again at the period of the decemviri, was borne in the centre of the *fusces* before the king and the consuls. In the purer democratic days of

the republic this axe was omitted, except in time of war, or in the event of a dictator being appointed.

MAURITIUS.—The ever-changing sixpenny stamp of this colony has again reverted to green, and is printed on the water-marked paper—C C beneath a crown. This addition is necessary to the list given in the article on watermarks, in last month's magazine.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—At page 83 surely there is an error in saying that the registered stamps have no figures for watermarks. It is true the earlier ones unperforated are generally (if not always) on unmarked paper; but those issued subsequently have a double-lined figure 6 in the paper representing their actual value—sixpence.

FRENCH ENVELOPES.—In the footnote on page 87 the collection referred to is probably that formerly belonging to Dr. De Volpi. Dr. Magnus certainly did not possess any of the essays of 1862 referred to when the writer saw his collection in the autumn; and it would be wrong to call it 'copious'—either in essays or stamps. To Dr. De Volpi's that description fully applies.

The 'Cayenne' essays referred to are the well-known and described essays of head; both of Liberty and of the emperor, on variously-coloured, chemically-prepared paper, produced and submitted to the French Post-office by MM. Mellet and Pichot, and rejected. The idea was, to obliterate by the touch of a camels' hair pencil wetted with pure water; and defaced specimens showing a run of colour in the paper are often to be met with (see Berger-Levrault's catalogue for the colours and description of this set of essays).

LITHOGRAPHED SPANISH STAMPS.—'Curiosity' gives an odd reason for the genuine character of these stamps—'they were brought over to me from Spain three years ago, which proves, &c.'—*q. e. d.* No doubt can exist in the mind of any one who has examined them or read the explanation of these forgeries in *Le Timbre-Poste*, that they were produced as a fraud on the Spanish Post-office; and the copies

bearing genuine postmarks, which one sees, prove that the imposition was, to some extent, successful. As curiosities, these may be admitted into a collection; they notably differ from forgeries made to deceive amateurs.

VICTORIA.—The editorial note to that part of the translation of Dr. Magnus's paper on watermarks, from *Le Timbrophile*, which appears in the magazine for June, is incorrect. The writer of these lines had the two specimens of the twopence, emblems at the four corners, there alluded to, kindly produced to him by the editor of the French journal. They are lilac and mauve of very distinct hues; but watermarked with a figure 2 formed by a *single* line: a *trait simple*. This only confirms, and by no means resolves, the doubts of M.M. Herpin and Magnus, and of the writer on the stamps of Victoria in this magazine. The existence of these stamps has never been doubted; but what is still doubted is a twopenny stamp with the emblems, watermarked with a *star*. That such a stamp exists has yet to be proved.

THE WRONG LETTER-BOX.

AMUSING incidents often occur by persons mistaking the letter-box of stores and newspaper offices in this vicinity for that of the post-office. We sometimes find three or four letters in our own letter-box intended for the mails. These we of course put on their way.

Standing once at our front window, we observed a young woman, whose face was not visible to us, drop a letter into our box, and on taking it out we found that she had mistaken our establishment for that of the post-office. It was directed to Thomas——, in Ireland, and the inland postage accompanied it. The letter we caused to be sent with some others to the post-office, and gave the circumstance no further thought.

Busied some months afterwards in examining the contents of our exchange papers, and inditing such paragraphs as they suggested to us, we did not pay much attention to a gentle tap at the door of our private room, until it was repeated. We then, too

anxious to conclude our labours to open to the applicant, bade the one that knocked 'come in,' and continued our labours without lifting an eye to the door, which was opened quietly, and as quietly closed. We were startled at length with a sweetly modulated voice inquiring, 'Is there a letter here for me?'

We at once raised our eyes and saw a female about eighteen years of age—or, as we have of late lost the art of judging closely in these matters, perhaps *twenty*. It did not make a dimple's difference to her face, and would not if five more years had been added to them. There was an oval face, with nature's own blush, and a slight projection of the mouth that told of Ireland, even without the softened modulation of voice that belongs to the women of that island. Neatness was all that could be ascribed to her dress—it deserved that.

Letters are frequently asked for in a newspaper office, in reply to advertisements—so we bade the young woman go to the front office, and inquire of the clerks.

She had been there, and there was no one but a boy, who could not give her the information.

So we inquired the name.

'*Kitty Mac Innes*; but, perhaps, it will be *Catherine* on the letter,' said she, 'as that is my name.'

We looked on the letter-rack in the front office, amongst the 'A. B.'s, the 'X. W.'s, the 'P. Q.'s, &c., but saw none for Catherine.

Returning, we inquired to what advertisement the letter was to be an answer. 'Advertisement! to no advertisement—it would be in answer to my letter.'

'And from whom did you expect a letter?'

The young woman looked much confused; but apparently considering the question pertinent, she said 'from Thomas——.'

We saw at once that she had, as hundreds before had done, mistaken our office for the post-office, and the name given was that upon the letter which we had some months before sent from our letter-box to that of the post-office.

'He has not written, then,' said Catherine, in a low voice, evidently not intended for our ears.

'But—he may have written.'

'Then where's the letter?' said she, looking up.

'At the post-office, perhaps.'

And we took Catherine by the hand and led her to the door, and pointed out the way to the post-office.

'You will ask at the window,' said we; 'but as the clerks are young men, you need not tell them from whom you expect the letter.'

'Not for the world,' said she, looking into our face with a glance that seemed to say there was no harm in telling us.

We must have used less than our usual precision in directing Catherine to the post-office, as quite half an hour afterwards, when visiting the place, we saw her at the window, receiving the change and a letter from one of the clerks, and the impatience, shall we say of woman or of love, induced Catherine to break the seal at the door. A glow of pleasure was on the cheek of the happy girl. We would not have given a penny to be *informed* that Thomas was well, and was coming in the next packet. We felt anxious to know whether Thomas would come, but the names of such persons rarely appear among the passengers of the Liverpool packets, being commonly included in that comprehensive line, 'and two hundred in the steerage.'

So we gave up all hopes of knowing when Thomas would arrive, but concluded that we should see the name with that of Catherine in the marriage list, on which we had determined to keep a careful watch.

It was but a short time afterwards that we did indeed see the name of Thomas in the papers. He was one of the passengers in the ship cast away below New York, of whom nearly every one perished, and Thomas among the rest.

We had never seen Thomas, but had somehow cherished such an interest in his fate, that we felt a severe shock at its annunciation; and what must have been the feelings of Catherine, with her ardent sanguine Irish temperament? Loving deeply as she must have loved, and hoping ardently as she must have hoped, what must have been her feelings?

We paused a few weeks afterwards to mark the young grass shooting, green and thick, in Ronaldson's grave-yard, and to see the buds swelling on the branches of the trees that decorate that populous city of the dead, when a funeral, numerously attended, wound slowly round the corner of the street, and passed into the inclosure. It was the funeral of a native of Ireland—we knew by the numbers that attended—and as the sexton lowered the coffin down into the narrow house, the place appointed for all the living, we saw engraved upon a simple plate, CATHERINE MACINNES.

The story was told. The small sum of money which Catherine had deposited in the savings' fund, to give a little consequence to her marriage festival, had been withdrawn to give her 'decent burial.'—*Chambers's Journal*.

QUALITY *versus* QUANTITY.

OF late years scientific men have assumed the right of looking into our cups of coffee, analysing our milk, pulling our bread about, and shaking their learned heads even over our children's sugar plums, and, really, though such inquisitiveness seems at first sight quite uncalled for, it is surprising what strange things these old fogies find out. Talk of the prophetic workings of the sediment in our cups when moved by experienced hands, they are not half so startling as the discoveries which these curious old gentlemen have made of all manner of unpleasant substances in our eatables and drinkables. The ladies also can testify to the passing off of common tissues as of superior quality: the picture buyer can tell how worthless copies of the old masters are sold to the incautious as being the priceless originals; the experienced innkeeper, if you are intimate with him, may explain to you how much difference is made in the quality of wine by the admixture of a glass or two of water on the one hand, or of brandy on the other; and indeed one might call up the victims or workers of deception in every trade, to prove what an amount of chicanery is daily practised.

It is but lately that stamp dealing has been so far systematised as to deserve the name of a trade; it appears for the first time amongst the list of trades in the *London Directory* for the present year, and already the leaven of cheating has entered into it, and scores, nay hundreds, of persons are daily defrauded of their money by crafty and unscrupulous dealers.

There is in the sale of stamps a wide field for the exercise of roguery. The number of varieties is so large that many buyers have probably never seen specimens of those which they write for. Again, there is very little check on the character of persons engaging in the trade. Their capital may, and often does, consist of nothing more than a high-sounding name assumed for the occasion, and a pocket-book full of counterfeits. A few shillings spent in advertisements suffices to float the vast concern; and once before the world, there are always plenty of dupes ready to assist in supporting it. The business of the firm may be carried on between 7 and 10 p.m., in a dingy room up four flights of stairs—in Manchester or Liverpool, for instance; but who, at a distance, is to know that the sole representative of the Universal Stamp-selling Company is a sharp-witted office-boy, or that the real name of that enterprising merchant, Reginald Montgomery (*ætatis* 17), is Walker?

A stamp collector who is serving his noviciate to the pursuit knows nothing of the relative respectability of the firms who advertise, and very little probably of the actual worth of the stamps he wants. Not unnaturally he wishes to obtain as much as he can for his money, and is consequently easily entrapped by the offer of a hundred *rare* stamps for a shilling, 'including Peru, New Granada, Sydney views, &c.' He writes for and receives his packet in due course, for such orders as his are always very punctually attended to. He doubtless prides himself on his increased stock of rarities, and is perhaps encouraged to write for more, but sooner or later he finds that his fancied treasures are valueless, and perhaps, dis-

gusted at the trickery of which he has been the victim, he gives up collecting at once, and joins the ranks of its enemies.

Many of the forgeries are so 'gross and palpable' that none but tyros could be deceived by them; and we may remark, *en passant*, that the mere fact of their continued sale shows that stamp collecting does not languish for want of fresh votaries. Any one at all acquainted with stamps would at a glance pronounce these so-called rarities to be spurious, many of them being in fact mere coloured impressions from coarse wood-block engravings which have appeared in defunct periodicals. Poor indeed must be the idea which the new enthusiast gains from them of the designs and styles of execution of foreign stamps. He finds the majority no more than hideous blotches with scarce a trace of device. With these monstrosities, however, the wonderful 'imitations' of Spiro are sometimes mixed, and these indeed might well deceive even experienced collectors, and tax Mr. Pemberton's detective ingenuity. Originally these *may* have been *bona fide* sold as imitations, but the 'appearance of evil' in a case like this is fatal. A facility for obtaining counterfeits is soon taken advantage of by unprincipled people, and Spiro Brothers themselves must have been long since aware of the use to which their productions are put.

The only way in which a novice can guard himself against fraud is by purchasing the catalogue of some really respectable dealer, and finding out from it the market prices of the stamps promised in those marvellous packets. By such a test he will soon discover the impossibility of giving genuine specimens of these stamps with the packets, except at a ruinous loss, and if he is wise he will steer clear of them. Should he not do so, he will learn the value of the guarantee, 'all stamps are warranted genuine,' when given by dealers who are under age.

We have been induced to pen these remarks in consequence of numerous well-grounded complaints of deceptions which have lately reached us; and we trust that our warning will have its due effect.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

NOTWITHSTANDING wars and rumours of wars, we have peacefully to record some sparse novelties. Our first illustration is the new-born 1 centime of

BELGIUM.—It reminds us of the old story of the maiden wandering in the wood in search of a straight stick, and obliged to choose a crooked one after all. A very elegantly-designed essay was submitted to the authorities during the competition, but the annexed type, though far inferior, obtained the preference.



The well-known Belgian chronicler does not seem satisfied with it, and points out several defects. A great one, in our idea, it shares with the antecedent quinette of its country, namely, the absence of patrial designation. The really tasteful design is more than partially obscured by the patterned background, without which, the crown, oak-garland, armorial shield, &c., would have been so much more effective. An old culinary adage might be applied to it, as we find one artist furnished the design, and another executed it; the galvanoplastic plate came from Antwerp; Messrs. De La Rue provided paper, ink, gum, &c.; and the Brussels authorities undertook its issue. It was to have formed one of a trio, its brethren 2 c. and 5 c. in value; but their appearance is postponed, and it stands at present the sole postal representative of the Belgian arms. It is printed in what may be termed an apology for colour on white. It would be more easy to say of what hue it is not, than of what it is. A dull slate-grey is the nearest definition we can give, but our readers can judge from the specimen given with the present number.

UNITED STATES.—In page 14 of this year's volume we challenged our subscribers and readers to find some peculiarity in the way of discrepancy between certain specimens of the earlier 5 cents of the States. No one ever responded:

we may therefore as well point out that the small prominence in the upper part of the frame is more or less developed in different individuals, rendering impossible their production from the same die. We have ourselves two specimens dissimilar above, and another more decidedly so, and offering the same strongly-developed contrariety below. We may take opportunity here to remark that we have been called to order for mistaking the lateral supports of the new 15 cents of the States for broken columns. It seems they are intended to portray the lictorial *fusces* of the great Roman republic. The absence of the *secures* prevented our recognizing the typification. They may perhaps have been purposely kept out of the way, for fear of shocking the sensibilities of the free and independent citizens by such symbols of despotism.



FRANCE.—Our second engraving pictures one of the chastely-elegant envelope stamp essays of M. Barre, a description of which we gave our readers in last month's magazine. We do not think it requires any remarks of ours, being perfectly competent to tell its own tale, and being possibly never destined to come into actual operation, must take rank for just what it is worth.

SHANGHAI.—Our Shanghai correspondent, the gentleman to whom we are indebted for the information given in the last number, states that the local post-office authorities were not satisfied with their new series of stamps, and that the manager had borrowed his collection in order to observe the designs of stamps of other nations, 'but,' adds our friend, 'I do not know which took his fancy most.' We can well believe that the manager felt rather undecided which to choose from among so many excellent stamps of different orders of beauty. Our correspondent incidentally replies to a query of ours relative to the substitution of the 'cent' for the 'candareen,' informing us that both words in this case, signify the same,

'cent' being understood to mean 'tael cent.' At present, he states, the Mexican dollars form the currency in Shanghai, but we learn from an English paper that, 'recent advices from Hong Kong report the arrival at the mint established there of the dies for the new dollar. The design has been much approved by the mint master, Captain Kinder, and the colonists look forward to the issue of the coin with much satisfaction, as the Mexican dollars in currency are completely defaced by the "chops" of the Chinese money changers. An act will be passed by the legislative council, making the defacement of the dollar a penal offence, so that it is expected this English dollar will rapidly replace the Mexican and Spanish dollars, which form the basis of the silver currency in China.'

SANDWICH ISLES.—The National Bank-note Company has again afforded the philatelic world an elegant specimen of engraver's skill. The just-issued 5 cents stamp of those distant islands is very similar in appearance to the 2 cents, but unlike that stamp, bears the portrait of King Kamehameha V., who has, it appears, adopted the fashionable English style of a central parting of his hair! The inscription is ELIMA KENETA, denotive of the value: the colour, a rich azure, and the paper unwatermarked and perforated.

HONDURAS.—It is stated in *Le Timbre-poste* for last month that the real value of the rose and green stamps of this country is $12\frac{1}{2}$ centavos, or one real; and in support of this statement the decree authorising their emission and fixing the postal rates is given. It is remarkable, in that case, that both these stamps should bear the inscription DOS REALES and the figure 2 in each corner, and no explanation is given on this point by our contemporary. The decree certainly directs that stamps of only one value, $12\frac{1}{2}$ centavos, shall be sold, and at the same time it establishes the following rates.

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------|
| For a single rate letter | ($\frac{1}{4}$ oz.) | 1 real. |
| " double " | ($\frac{1}{2}$ oz.) | 2 " |
| " triple " | ($\frac{3}{4}$ oz.) | 3 " |
| " quadruple " | (1 oz.) | 4 " |

It is therefore probable, if this tariff is adhered to, that an issue of other values will

take place. The stamps already in circulation commenced duty on the first of January of the present year. M. Moens suggests that one colour may be intended for ordinary, and the other for registered letters; but if this be so, how is it they are of the same value?

BREMEN.—We take the opportunity of the dearth of new arrivals, to introduce to our readers' notice a stamp which probably but few of them have seen. It is printed in black on pale blue paper, with scalloped edges, and is employed by the Bremen postal administration for the franking of official correspondence.

RIGI-KALTBAD.—Desiring to test the correctness of the information given by our correspondent, 'A Stamp Collector,' respecting the use to which this stamp was put, we wrote to the proprietor of the Rigi-Kaltbad Hotel on the subject, and received from him the following obliging reply:—

Rigi-Kaltbad, 19th of June, 1866.
(Cold Baths).

Sir,

In answer to your letter of the 15th instant, we do not fail to send you some of the desired stamps.

As our establishment is situated on the mountain, we are not in direct connection with the Federal Swiss post-office, therefore we have to send the letters to the first station at the foot of the mountain, for which everybody has to pay 15 cents per letter extra for carriage.

Not only is it a postage stamp, but it is also for an advertising use. In the centre of the stamp is the well-known Alpine rose, as symbol of the mountain.

I hope this will be sufficient for your purpose,

And remain very respectfully yours,

T. Segesser-Faaden,

Proprietor of the Rigi-Kaltbad Hotel.

It will be seen from this communication that the stamp is primarily used to prepay the postage of letters sent by a most peculiar route, and as it is thus *bona fide* employed, we should consider it as deserving of admission into our albums as any of the American locals.

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.—We understand, from the British consul-general of these islands, that a stamp, value 13 cents, is expected to be issued. His information is not, however,



given with certainty, and we should be inclined to doubt its correctness, unless the former rate of postage between the islands and the States has been re-established. It is certain that the old 13 c. with head of the third king, was suppressed because the altered arrangements between the two countries rendered it useless; and for this reason we question the genuineness of the provisional 13 c. of the same type as the 1 c., 2 c., and 5 c., and which is said to have been lately issued.

THE STAMPS OF URUGUAY.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

THE stamps of Uruguay, or of Montevideo, as they are more commonly called, have always attracted attention from their conspicuously-grotesque appearance and lively colours, but until M. Moens published his account of them, entitled, *Détails sur le service des postes et les timbres de l'Uruguay*, but little was known of their history. We now purpose drawing on that article for most of the facts hereafter stated, and desire most fully to acknowledge our obligations to it.

The earliest stamps were the well-known 'diligencias,' bearing the sun and rays in a white circle enclosed in a solid rectangular frame. They served to prepay the postage of letters sent by the vehicles of the same name to the interior. Such was, and we believe still is, the state of this secluded republic, that these mail-coaches, as we should term them, were and are the only means of conveyance. A French writer thus describes them:—

'Figure to yourselves a large omnibus containing ten places inside, three on the top, and three by the side of the *mayoral*, who is the conductor, and has charge of the letters and baggage. The team is composed of six horses placed in a triangle, three nearest the carriage, two before these, and one in front bestridden by a young boy in the dress of a postilion. At the side of the diligence gallops a man, whose sole business is from time to time to stimulate the horses with cries, should they slacken in their pace; and this

failing in effect, he applies his whip with dexterity.'

The stamps were emitted by the Diligencia office, which acted as a branch of the post, and were obliterated by the word *sucursal* (branch). They were three in number:—

60 centavos, blue.

80 „ green.

1 real, scarlet.

M. Moens distinguishes two shades of the 60 c.—a light-blue and indigo. These stamps are printed on white well-gummed unwatermarked paper, and the two higher values have been reprinted. These are very common; but the 60 c. is, of course, difficult to obtain.

According to M. Moens the next issue consisted entirely of the tolerably well engraved oblong series, with inscription in roman letters, and only one numeral of value. In the article to which we have referred he gives the decree authorising their emission at length. It is dated the 11th June, 1859, and directs the manufacture of stamps in accordance with the following tariff:—

HOME POSTAGE.

60 centesimos, violet, for single rate letters.

80 „ yellow, „ double „ „

100 „ rose, „ triple „ „

FOREIGN POSTAGE.

120 centesimos, blue, for single rate letters.

180 „ green, „ double „ „

240 „ red, „ triple „ „

It also provides that unstamped letters shall be retained at the office, and advertised in the journals, in order that the authors may reclaim them, or pay the postage; and further, that any traveller or other person who shall undertake the carriage and delivery of unstamped or insufficiently stamped letters shall, unless he make due amends, be taken before a civil judge, who shall impose corporal chastisement according to the magnitude of his offence.

Pursuant to this decree, says M. Moens, a complete series was issued, with the inscription in roman, on the 1st July, 1859; the colours and values being as follows:—

| | | |
|-----|-------------|-----------------|
| 60 | centesimos, | violet. |
| 80 | „ | yellow, orange. |
| 100 | „ | red-brown. |
| 120 | „ | light-blue. |
| 180 | „ | green. |
| 240 | „ | vermilion. |

In the same year these values were re-engraved; the design was of course the same in the second edition as in the first, but differed slightly in the execution, especially in the size of the lettering and figures, which are larger in the



second. Of the 60 c. of this series we annex an engraving, and take the list of colours verbatim from M. Moens' article.

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 60 centesimos, | dark-brown, red-brown, grey, light-violet, dark-violet. |
| 80 „ | yellow, orange. |
| 100 „ | rose, bright-carmine. |
| 120 „ | blue, dark-blue. |
| 180 „ | green, dark-green. |
| 240(?) „ | vermilion. |

It is not known with certainty whether or not the 240 c. was issued in the second type, and it seems probable that a sufficient supply of this high value was worked off at first.

M. Moens places next to these the 'block-letter' issue, consisting of three values.

| | | |
|-----|-------------|--------|
| 120 | centesimos, | blue. |
| 180 | „ | green. |
| 240 | „ | red. |



of which the subjoined representation will give a good idea. We, however, question the correctness of our Belgian contemporary's date of emission—the 19th October, 1860—as we have

now in our possession an undoubtedly genuine specimen postmarked with the date 1859. Moreover, there does not seem any sufficient reason for the emission of the 'blocks' after the 'roman' series had been circulated. The colours of the latter stamps certainly distinguished them sufficiently, so that there could not have been any confusion between those intended for home and those for foreign

postage. Nor has any attempt been made to prove that the supply of the 'roman' had been exhausted; on the other hand it would seem from the alleged fact that the 240 c. was not re-issued like the remaining stamps of the series, that, as we before said, a sufficient number of impressions were taken in the first instance.

Again, even in case of an unexpected exhaustion of the stock of stamps intended for foreign postage, there was no reason why the existing plates should not have been used to supply the deficiency; and certainly it does not seem likely that, with these plates on their hands, the authorities would allow fresh ones to be prepared, or would emit stamps showing such retrogression in design, or at any rate in execution, as do the 'block-letters.' They have rather the appearance of a primal series; and we may venture on the hypothesis that they were issued in 1859, provisionally, until their respective values in the more finished series were ready for circulation. Their rarity also favours the idea that they were the immediate successors of the 'diligencias;' for it seems very unlikely that if they were in use during the latter part of 1860 and the spring of 1861 genuine original specimens would be almost unattainable, as they now are.

We observe that M. Moens, in his *Illustrations*, gives the same dates for the decree and emission of the first series as in his subsequent article; but he makes the 'block-letters' alone to comprise that series; and Levraut, without naming any date, also places these stamps first. We have only our solitary postmarked impression and our conjectures to oppose to M. Moens' positive statement, but we still think that a detailed explanation is required before the latter can be received as conclusively settling the point.

In whatever year these stamps were emitted it seems tolerably clear that they did not remain long in use. The two higher values have been reprinted, but the 120 c. has not; and original specimens of either are very scarce. The 'roman' series are not difficult to obtain, but as

they have been carefully counterfeited, collectors should be on their guard when purchasing. They may detect the 240 c. by the shape of the figure 4; as in the forged it is formed in the English style; the upright and the slanting line uniting at the top; whilst in the genuine the 4 is a foreign one, with the upper part of the diagonal line curved outwards. The colours of the forgeries are generally pretty exact, and the resemblance is altogether a very close one. We have, in particular, to caution collectors against purchasing forgeries of the 120 c. blue, *block-letter*, and the 60 c. diligencia. These two rarities have been copied with extreme skill, and we can only now refer to the general clearness of the engraving as a sign of the counterfeits. The very gum has been made to look old, and the forgeries have altogether the appearance of well-preserved specimens. We believe the copies already in this country were imported from Germany, the most respectable dealers in which country have been imposed on by them.

The monetary system underwent a change in 1862, and in accordance therewith a new series of stamps was prepared and issued in February, 1864, with values according with the altered currency. The appended engraving represents the type. The issue consisted of four values,



and seven colours, viz. :—

| | | |
|----|-------------|------------------|
| 06 | centesimos, | rose, brick-red. |
| 08 | „ | green. |
| 10 | „ | yellow, bistre. |
| 12 | „ | blue, dark-blue. |

The design of this new series was more intricate than those of the obsolete issues, and the heraldic device (stated to be that of Montevideo) as quaint as ever. The colours were well chosen; and the appearance of the stamps, when placed together, is neat and effective.

In the first month of this year the present series made its *debut*, a thorough revision of the postal rates having rendered a new emission necessary. We have no need to dwell on the excellencies or peculiarities of these late

arrivals, most of our readers being doubtless familiar with them, and those who are not should turn to the illustrations in the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for May, from which they will get a better idea than we could give of the novel appearance of these stamps. The values and colours are

| | | |
|----|-------------|--------------|
| 5 | centesimos, | blue. |
| 10 | „ | green. |
| 15 | „ | yellow. |
| 20 | „ | bright-rose. |

and we need only observe that whereas the heraldic shield is a simple oval on the 5, 10, and 20 c., its upper side is curved in the 15 c. The whole series was first issued unperforated; but we have just met with a 10 c. perforated, and of a brighter shade of green.

It was stated in the beginning of the present year that the Montevidean authorities had issued a provisional series, composed of the 1864 stamps with new impressed on them in black ink; but the rumour proves groundless.

The values of these Uruguayan stamps are certainly puzzling, and we do not profess to be able to settle the queries which arise. We would rather inquire ourselves, what was the real value of the diligencia *centavo*. If a halfpenny, then the postage of a single letter must have been enormous. The *centesimos* of the obsolete oblong series counted twenty to the English penny, consequently the highest value, 240 c., was equivalent to a shilling of our money; but we believe the *centesimo* of the last and present issue is equal to a halfpenny. The subject is rather a difficult one, but let us hope we shall know all about it *some day*.

THE TWO COMPANIES.

IN the number for May last we informed a correspondent, who had inquired whether the 'American' and the 'National' Bank-note Companies were the same or different, that they were one and the same, adding 'both imprints have been occasionally seen, we are informed, on one sheet of stamps.'

'To err is human,' and an old and valued correspondent, Mr. Chute, of Boston, U. S., has taken pains to convince

us that we have shown our humanity by making an erroneous statement. He had previously gone to the trouble of writing to both companies, in order to ascertain to whom belonged the credit of designing and manufacturing the beautiful Nova Scotian series; and the following are the replies he received:

National Bank-Note Company,

No. 1, Wall Street, New York, 26th Oct., 1865.

James M. Chute, Esq.,

24, Blackstone Street, Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir,

We have received your favour of 13th inst.

We engrave all the postage stamps used in the United States: their denominations are 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 12, 24, 30, and 90 cents. We have also engraved the 2 cents and 5 cents postage stamps of the Hawaiian Islands. Quite recently we have engraved a new style of large stamps for the United States, to be used for the transmission by mail of packages or bundles containing considerable quantities of newspapers.

Yours respectfully,

A. D. Shepard, Tr,
per Wm. Myckoff.

American Bank-Note Company,

New York, Oct. 10th, 1865.

Dear Sir,

Your favour of 8th inst. is at hand.

This company furnishes revenue and postage stamps for the province of Canada, and postage stamps for Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Mexico.

Yours respectfully,

C. S. Vanzmidt, Secy.

This evidence is of course overwhelming, and in reply we can but adduce the singular fact that a five-dollar note now in our possession bears the imprint of the 'American' on the left and the 'National' on the right—a circumstance, however, which our friends in the States will doubtless be able to explain.

We feel indebted to Mr. Chute for his kindness in elucidating this matter, as it is certainly desirable to give honour to whom honour is due, and a great deal belongs to the manufacturers of the Nova Scotian and Nicaraguan emissions. We may add, that from a second letter sent by the American Bank-note Company to Mr. Chute, it appears that they are the manufacturers of the new Brazilian issue; but in reply to our friend's inquiries respecting it, the secretary says, 'The empire of Brazil is not yet in possession of its new stamps, and we must decline furnishing information for the present.'

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Descriptive Price Catalogue of Postage Stamps.

Sixth edition. London: E. Marlborough & Co.; Bath: Alfred Smith & Co. (late Stafford Smith & Smith).

WE have received an early copy of the sixth edition of this old friend, which comes to us now with a new face. Its external adornments consist of a toned paper cover, neatly bordered with representations of stamps printed alternately in red and black; its interior presents ample proof of the care taken by its publishers to render it as complete and useful as possible. The numbering of the stamps renders reference easy; and the engraving which heads the list of each country's emission still further facilitates this *desideratum*, and at the same time enlivens the necessarily prosaic pages of the catalogue. We observe that upwards of 1700 stamps are described, and as comparatively few *varieties* are included, this number must comprise all the principal known stamps. It is worthy of note, as indicative of the indifference of English collectors to distinctions of perforated and unperforated, that no notice is taken of them in the list before us. The descriptions are, as may be expected, brief and to the point; and the catalogue appears to give, as it professes, the 'market price' of stamps.

The Postman's Knock. Saint John, New Brunswick: A. C. Killam.

THIS is the title of a four-page monthly publication gratuitously circulated through our North American colonies—or some of them. It commences its existence with the excellent resolution 'not to take any share in editorial quarrels, which now are, or hereafter may be pending,' and wisely remarks in its review of another periodical that 'useless controversy is far from edifying'—an axiom which will receive universal assent.

The philatelic public are not kept in the dark as to the ownership of this new claimant for its favours, but are duly informed that 'Mr. Killam owns one half of this monthly, and deserves credit for his advanced views in going into a gratuitous

paper as this is, it being borne in mind that an affair of this kind costs a great deal more money than advertising in all the stamp papers of the day would. We hope,' adds the editor, 'that an increased business will repay Mr. K. for his kindness to his customers and to stamp collectors.' We cordially re-echo this disinterested wish.

In the first number 'several swindling dealers' are warned that they 'will receive our kind attentions unless they abandon the paths of deception, and act more honourable in the future.' We trust this threat will not be a fruitless one.

The second number contains a short 'editorial' on the present state of stamp collecting; the following passage from which will be read with pleasure, as evidence of the progress it is making on the 'other side.'

True, a great many persons, who collected because it was fashionable and a fashionable mania, have fired of the pursuit, and are now paying their most exclusive and languid attention to something better suited to the turn of their frivolous minds; but for every one of such useless soldiers our armies lose, we receive two earnest collectors, gentlemen and ladies, who gather stamps for the love of it—as the antiquary gathers relics of by-gone days—persons who take pride in their pursuit, and are determined to follow it on.

This we must acknowledge gratifying, though one statement rather puzzled us. We have been unable to discover how 'two earnest collectors' can be 'gentlemen and ladies.'

European philatelists who have cherished the belief that some, at least, of the American locals are genuine, will read with dismay the authoritative assertion of the *Postman's Knock*, that the 'United States local stamps are a complete and unmitigated humbug from beginning to end;' nor will they be reassured to find that these stamps are increasing 'in a prolific manner.'

Wishing very sincerely that *The Postman's Knock* may be often repeated, we take leave of it for the present.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

A GREAT STAMP ROBBERY recently took place at Manchester. The thieves broke into the stamp-office, and, in spite of iron-sheathed doors and a Milner's safe, they succeeded in securing £7000 worth of stamps. This loss the stamp distributor will have to make good.

THE PANAMA ROUTE.—Letters are now conveyed to New Zealand across the isthmus of Darien, the government of New Zealand having entered into a contract with

the Australian Royal Mail Company for a monthly mail service by steam vessels from Panama to Wellington, with branch services to the other ports of New Zealand, as well as to Sydney and Melbourne. The lowest rate of postage is one shilling per half ounce.

A COMPANY has been formed in New Brunswick, having for its object 'the establishment of a uniform rate or tariff of prices for North American colonial postage stamps. 'The growing scarcity of colonials' is given as one reason for this measure, and is intelligible so far as regards the obsolete issues; but it cannot be intended to apply to the current series, unless, indeed, the colonists should have resolved to defer 'mailing' their letters until they have Confederation stamps wherewith to frank them. We ourselves question the utility of such a course to prevent exportation at under rates; and should the company succeed in maintaining a protective tariff, we believe that such a diminution in trade would follow as would leave the protectionists losers. The newly-established company is stated to be 'limited,' but as it does not appear from the prospectus that any capital is to be subscribed, the *liability* of members must be so infinitesimal as not to need restriction. The governing board at present consists of the president, secretary, and treasurer, who are members *ex officio*, and of one unofficial gentleman. We observe that the directors have not retained 'power to add to their number.'

POSTAL COMMUNICATION IN JAPAN.—Postal communication is all conducted by runners. Government couriers run between the ports at stated periods, doing the distance between Yeddo and the extreme north or south, Hakodadi or Nagasaki, in about twenty-five days, the distance being 290 Re to Hakodadi (say 650 miles), and 350 Re to Nagasaki (say 875 miles). By express, paid at the rate of eighty itziboos or six pounds sterling, letters can be conveyed in nine or ten days. Thus, with some of the best roads in the world, the Japanese are three centuries behind the rest of the civilised world in all that concerns speed and means of communication. And even this very primitive post has no reference to the wants of the people, but serves merely to keep up the communication between the government and its officers. The merchants combine among themselves to send couriers express from one trading city to another, but, so far as I could learn, at no regular periods or in any permanent form. The Chinese even seen in advance of them here, for in most of the large cities in the north there are regular posts established by the people or certain guilds of merchants for them.—*Capital of the Tycoon.*

THE CONTINENTAL WAR.—It seems very probable that the war just commenced, will considerably affect the supplies of stamps received from the German States. The disturbed condition of the various countries will, doubtless, have a great influence over the amount of correspondence in and between them, notwithstanding the care which may be taken by the opposing armies to prevent any injury being done to private persons and property, and from this cause the number of stamps collected by German merchants must proportionately diminish. These remarks apply to the collection and sale of large quantities of common used stamps, but should dealers in this and other neutral states become, as they very likely may, chary of sending cash to the seat of war for the purchase of unused stamps, the latter will, as a matter of course, become comparatively scarce. Should the Prussian invasion of Hanover result in annexation, the stamps of the latter country will shortly become obsolete; and that it

is the invaders' intention to possess themselves of it, is evident from the substitution of the Prussian for the Hanoverian arms in the towns occupied by the forces of the former nation, and by the appointment of a Prussian commissioner to administer the government of the conquered realm. A similar result may ensue from the occupation of Saxony, but we trust, in the interests of stamp collecting at least, that the designs of Prussia will be frustrated.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MEXICAN ISSUE OF 1864.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—Having noticed in the answers to correspondents in the May number of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine* an erroneous statement in reference to Mexican stamps, I herewith enclose a perforated specimen for your inspection. It was issued from Monterey, I think, about the end of 1864, when Juarez's government occupied the place for a short time, and was received in Mexico itself on a business letter from thence. I have therefore no hesitation in assuring you it is perfectly genuine. In my collection I have two other specimens of the same issue—*un real* red, and *quatro reales* brown.

Yours truly,

JAMES W. NEWALL.

Liverpool

[An engraving of the Mexican stamp here referred to by our correspondent was given in vol. iii., page 104, of this magazine. The series comprehends four:—2 reales blue, and 1 peso black, in addition to those mentioned above.—Ed.]

TENPENNY ENGLISH ENVELOPE STAMPS.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—A correspondent, Mr. Pearson Hill, stated some months back in your valuable magazine that the one shilling, tenpenny, and sixpenny embossed stamps, when *undated*, were not envelope stamps but adhesive labels. With all respect to Mr. Pearson Hill's information, I have this to say:—a friend of mine possesses a tenpenny *undated* stamp, which to my certain knowledge was *cut out* of an envelope on which it was *embossed*, not *struck on*. How then can it be an adhesive label? The stamp is brown or chocolate, eight-sided, and *undated*. It was received by my friend's mother, when at Caen some twelve years back, on a letter from this country. Should I be able to obtain another of these stamps I will gladly forward it for your inspection. My friend was offered ten shillings for it by a dealer a little time ago. I have myself a one shilling embossed stamp, and a sixpenny, both *undated*; but as they came to me in a *cut* condition I can say nothing on the subject: they are both postmarked. If they are labels perhaps Mr. Pearson Hill, or one of your correspondents, could tell me when and for how long they were used, and for what purpose; and when were they superseded by the one shilling and sixpenny labels now in use. I should be much obliged by your inserting this letter in your magazine, as it may be of use to some of your readers.

I have, Sir, the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

CHRISTABEL.

Clifton.

[As the tenpenny stamp never was dated, its existence on an envelope is the point in contest: is the silk thread, vertical or diagonal, in the specimen referred to? if the former, that is decisive that it was an adhesive.—Ed.]

SPANISH WATERMARKS, ETC.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—In the paragraph on Luzon in last month's magazine mention is made of the *garter* watermark on Spanish stamps. Does the writer allude to the *loop* watermark of 1855, or is there another watermark unknown to the generality of collectors? It has been justly remarked that Spain first had the honour of having its stamps catalogued according to their watermarks. But there is still considerable ambiguity in their arrangement, and even great Dons differ in their opinions. Bellars & Davie—though at first sight their arrangement appears 'confusion worse confounded'—approach, I believe, nearest to truth. I have however compared the watermark of 1855 with that of 1858, and can find no difference sufficient to justify the distinction of 'curved watermarks' 1855, and 'looped zigzags' 1858. There may be a slight curve in the zigzag or *chevron* of the older stamps, but certainly not sufficient to constitute a variety; and none have I found without the loop attached to the angle of each zigzag, which Bellars & Davie's mode of expression would lead one to infer was altogether wanting in the 1855 stamps. I believe most connoisseurs ignore the re-issue of the loop watermark in 1858. But I have a 2 reales postmarked Feb. 6th, 1859, and have also no doubt of the re-issue of a 4 cuartos pink. The carmine I ascribe, from its comparative rarity, to 1855, though not prepared at present to prove it. People argue that the 1857 issue on plain paper must necessarily be the last previous to the change of design; because specimens on plain paper are the most numerous in the market. But this is no proof to my mind, as I believe they have been very largely reprinted for the 'benefit of collectors.' The reprints, as I presume, may be recognized by the absence of two longish strokes shading the outline of the chin, which in the originals are a continuation of the strokes shading the throat, but which in the reprints end abruptly at the junction of the throat with the chin, leaving the chin entirely without shading of any kind. I am glad Mr. Pemberton has at last come forward to own his foundings, the lithographed officials. Dr. Magnus may have made the discovery for himself, but it was known to the readers of your magazine long ago (see vol. ii., page 111). Mr. Pemberton, it appears, did not then think them forgeries, though I find on looking back that I had pencilled in the margin their conditional condemnation by the words 'probably forgeries.' On reading the recent article on 'Lithographed Spanish Stamps,' I made the same marginal note to Dr. Magnus's discovery of the 4 cuartos, lithographed, of the 1857 type. Mr. Pemberton, I observe, is of the same opinion (page 79). That the 4 cuartos (somewhat less in value than our penny stamp) is a favourite stamp with the Spaniards on which to exercise their skill in forgery, may be inferred from your remarks some time since, in which it is stated that the 4 cuartos of 1862 was forged to such an extent that the postal authorities felt obliged to withdraw it suddenly from circulation.

With regard to the woodcuts recently given in this magazine of the various watermarks, I demur to the propriety of reversing the letters and figures as they appear when examining the stamps from the back. I maintain the true way of representing them, such as the C C under crown, the TWPENCE Victoria, &c., should be straightforward as they are written, and as they actually appear when the back instead of the face of the stamp is held towards the light.

As some doubt has been expressed as to the exact meaning of a crown colony, I give the following extract from a popular work:—‘A crown colony has no legislative assembly, but is governed by orders from the Colonial Office in England. There is, however, generally an executive council to aid the governor with their assistance and advice.’ Thus the C C would not be found on the stamps of New South Wales or Victoria, though they still appear on those of Western Australia.

FENTONIA.

Clifton.

[A crown colony, properly so called, is one acquired by the sovereign of this country in right of the crown, by occupation and settlement of a territory; possessions ceded to, or conquered by this country, do not strictly fall within this definition. In the former class of colonies the common law of England prevails, and is carried by the original settlers in the country, at least, so much as is necessary for the situation and wants of an infant colony; while, in a ceded or conquered territory, the former laws remain in force, except they be altered expressly by the crown. The phrase, crown colonies, has, moreover, acquired a subordinate meaning, dependent rather on the interior polity than on the original mode of acquisition, and comprehends such colonies as have constitutions of their own, depending on the respective commissions issued by the crown to the governors, and the instructions which usually accompany such commissions; under the authority of which provincial assemblies are constituted with the power of making local ordinances, not repugnant to the law of England.—Ed.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. B. W. BARNARD, Ballarat.—Your reddish Victoria threepenny was only issued this year, when the sixpenny was changed to blue: you will find it duly noted in our May number.

A. S., Sydney.—The two French stamps you wish to know more about are stamps used not for postal but in legal proceedings, and were probably on the protest of a foreign bill, noted and dishonoured in the department of the Rhone. All French law proceedings are on paper thus stamped: see the scales of Justice held by the figure.

F. H. H.—The Italian stamp you describe, with inscription in circular band, AMMINISTRAZIONE DELLE REGIE POSTE, is not uncommonly met with, and we do not know why it was not noticed in last month's article on the stamps of the Italian kingdom.

K. H., Stoke Newington.—Some of the older Pacific Steam Navigation stamps were marked in the Peruvian post office: if the specimen in question is forwarded to us, we shall be happy to give our opinion on its genuineness. A forged postmark is not uncommon on the stamps.

C. E. B., Dartmouth Park.—The twopenny Ceylon olive-green has been duly chronicled in the magazine; as also the current rose-coloured threepenny Victoria.—The peculiarity you remark in your green Wurtemberg envelope seems not unusual, and has been previously alluded to in our pages.—The Austrian you describe is a bill or receipt stamp, and is found of sundry values.—We do not think the San Franciscans you name are of much value.

E. E. H., London.—The stamp about which you ask information is one of the issues of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, whose initial you see at the four angles. The genuine individual is of a peculiarly rich red colour. You say yours is light-red, which is the hue of the numerous forgeries of the same, now so unsparingly and shamelessly offered for sale, and not always even under the gloss of fac-similes.

G. K., Londonderry.—This correspondent asks when the first penny post was used in Ireland; having an envelope postmarked 1835 with DOWEGAL PENNY POST. Perhaps one of our Irish friends can afford him and us the required information.

M. T.—You ask why the 20 c. of the French Empire is highly priced; you must mean the 25 c., which was in use but for a brief period, and is now rarely met with.

S. C. M.—There are three works on Forged Stamps—produced by Messrs. Pemberton, Dalston, and Stourton, respectively. Your best plan will be to obtain them all, which we believe you can do from our publishers. The sale of forgeries having become very extensive, great caution is necessary in purchasing, and we should recommend you never to buy rare stamps without first submitting them to the inspection of some respectable dealer or competent friend.—Your obliterated Lubeck are undoubted forgeries. They are exceedingly good imitations, but are easily recognised by the cancellation, which is always composed of either three or four straight lines about a third of an inch apart, and so impressed as not to spoil the appearance of the stamp.—Your Romagna is not even the proper colour, and is altogether a poor counterfeit; but the Baden is more carefully done. All the rest of your stamps are genuine.—English envelope stamps cut out may be used for postage.

ABRACADABRA.—We believe the Hamers and Scheerenbecks were emitted in 1859, the Van Diemen set in 1864. These are the only Hamburg locals deserving places in stamp albums, though many collectors include the Krantz and Lafrenz humbugs.—‘Singhalese’ must have been intended to mean ‘Cingalese’ or Ceylon stamps.

G. E., Liverpool.—The Pony Express stamps, so far as we know, were always issued gummed, and we can only account for your specimens being ungummed by supposing that they are reprints, or that they had been taken out of a collection. The 25 cents unused, if an original, is rare, but, in common with the rest, it has been reprinted.

J. M. CHUTE.—Your black Baton Rouge we should imagine to be a proof, but it is by no means improbable that a few impressions in black were circulated.

S. O. KRATES.—We have no further information concerning the *gaucha* stamps, but consider their genuine character already sufficiently proved. Had they been ‘sells’ we should have seen more of them by this time. Their very scarcity is no slight evidence in their favour.

G. X. S.—The first volume of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine* is out of print, but our publishers can supply the second and third at the advertised price.

LOUIS.—The fourpenny rose New Zealand is already difficult to obtain, having been in use only a month or two. Owing to the similarity in colour between this stamp and the penny, some confusion arose, and to obviate this the hue of the former was changed to yellow.

MARCO.—If you cannot obtain original specimens of the British Guianas, we should advise you to content yourself with the reprints. These will fill up the vacancy in your book, and will be at any rate evidence of the designs of these almost unattainable stamps.

WENDEX.—We think the Livonian stamp with griffin in centre is no longer used, as on recently writing for a supply of the current stamp, we received the earlier issue with plain green centre.

IMPROVER.—The present ‘roman-figure’ Brazil will doubtless be superseded by the new issue as soon as the stock in hand is exhausted. We think with you that the improvement will not have been made before it was required.

E. S. S. X.—The fourth *English* edition of Lallier is now ready, and may be had of our publishers, Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co.

POSTAGE-STAMP PAPER & WATER-MARKS.

(Concluded from page 99).

BRITISH WEST INDIES. JAMAICA.—The stamps of this island, emitted in 1860, on glazed paper, have a pineapple, one of the emblems of the place, for watermark. It is found also on the three-penny of 1864. In respect of colour, the hue of these stamps has never varied except in more or less intensity.



NEVIS.—These stamps, so remarkable from delicacy of design, are printed on toned paper without watermark.

ANTIGUA.—Its two stamps (of which the earlier penny has a more violet tinge than the current one) are on toned paper with the star watermark.

ST. LUCIA.—The type of this island's stamps has not varied; but the radical change of colour, and increase in the number of the stamps, compel us to divide them into two series.

In the former, comprising three impressions, red, blue, and green, we find two very distinct issues, not only owing to diverse shade of colour, but to diversity of watermark. The 1859 set, brownish-red, blue, and yellowish-green, has the star watermark. The 1863 set, reddish-pink, deep-blue, and bright-green, has the crown and double C, which latter is found also on the black, yellow, violet, and orange individuals of the current emission.

[This latter set, as well as the preceding, could not have been printed from the same die that was used for the first trio, as will be readily seen on ocular comparison].

ST. VINCENT.—The pair of values belonging to this island, of which the green is found of two distinct hues, seem unwatermarked.

GRENADA.—We have identified two sets, one with the star, and one without watermark. The colours scarcely vary. We think the former is the current one.

BARBADOS.—No watermark. The first set of stamps bearing no facial value, emitted in 1852, is on bluish paper.

TRINIDAD.—The lithographed stamps are on very thin unwatermarked paper. The 1851 set of stamps without expressed value is on bluish paper. The second emission of these is on white unwatermarked paper.

None of the stamps with value denoted, perforated or not, have a watermark, and the date of their emission can only be distinguished by their diverse shades of colour. They are all on toned paper. Those in actual service come with the double C and crown. We have seen it on the bright-violet fourpenny, the bright-green sixpenny, and the mauve shilling. The red may follow, but has not appeared at the present date.

[BERMUDAS.—The recently-issued stamps of these islands are on glazed paper and watermarked with the double C and crown].

BAHAMAS.—The first issue of the solitary series of these islands is printed on toned, unwatermarked paper. The issue of 1863, including the new shilling green, bears the crown and double C.

[BRITISH HONDURAS.—The series of stamps lately issued by this colony is on glazed paper without any watermark].

GRANADINE CONFEDERATION.—All its stamps are printed on white unwatermarked paper. In the second series, with small figures, the one peso is also found on blue paper. Of the fifth, that with nine stars, coloured design, corners unornamented, we have found a blue 10 centavos and a green 50 c. on blue paper.

VENEZUELA, COSTA RICA, NICARAGUA, ECUADOR.—No watermark in any of these; all impressed on white paper.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Setting aside the (almost) unattainable stamps of the first three series, we find those of 1853, 1860, and 1863 on white unwatermarked paper. M. Baillieu has shown us some of the black one cent on paper bearing a watermarked inscription, formed by capital letters. According to his researches, kindly communicated to us, the words are TH. SAUNDERS, 1863. The sheet containing one hundred stamps in ten rows of ten each, these words, which denote the manufacturer of the paper, are on the seventh, eighth, and ninth rows. The

(so-called) newspaper stamps are impressed in black on coloured paper, with no watermark.

BRAZIL.—All stamps on white unwatermarked paper.

PERU.—No watermark. [The issues for these two countries now in process of preparation by the American Bank-note Company, like the Nova Scotian, and current Newfoundland, from the same hands, are not likely to be watermarked].

CHILI.—The original 5 and 10 centavos stamps are on bluish paper. These, as well as the current four, bear a middling-sized figure corresponding with their value. There are slight differences in the size of the figure, especially as regards the 5 centavos.



PACIFIC STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.—Among these stamps we have found the $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 1 real carmine, and the 1 oz. 2 reales blue on white laid paper. The two others and the known essays are on white unlaidd paper.

MONTEVIDEO.—The stamps of Montevideo, or the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, are on white unwatermarked paper.

BUENOS AYRES.—These stamps are equally devoid of watermark; but in the head-of-Liberty series, the red is on yellowish, and the green on bluish paper.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—The first two series are unwatermarked, printed in colours on white paper.



The set with Rivadavia's effigy is on white paper, and bears for watermark the two letters R. A., united, as in the annexed cut. The Corrientes stamps were first on blue, then on green paper.

§ 3. CONCLUSION.

We have now reached the end of our labour, having successively indicated, in all countries, those important peculiarities observable after examination of paper and watermark. We have grouped stamps resembling each other in this respect, under the name of 'issues.' Let us now see the

general conclusions furnished by such examination.

In the first place, we believe we have demonstrated the interest and importance of this kind of study. At the present time every amateur seriously desirous of forming a complete collection, cannot dispense with the notice of watermarks, the character of which will so often establish a difference between two stamps apparently identical.

As a variation of tint, and with still more reason, an entire change of colour almost always indicates a change in watermark, those who collect shades of colour are no longer to be sneered at, since this variation is very often not the mere effect of chance or of the greater or less quantity of colour employed.

The addition of a new stamp to a series is oftentimes a reason for changing the paper, the tint of the colours, or the watermark. It will be necessary, therefore, to examine specially the stamps of the same epoch, or those which come immediately after.

The presence or absence of watermark, clinching other sources of information, allows the connexion of stamps of the same series emitted at one epoch. It does not any the more indicate that these stamps were emitted at the same time. In reality, a provision of any one series of stamps being made, they are not all in equal use. It is easy, consequently, to admit that the exhausted stamp will be replaced, either by a stamp on similar paper and with the same watermark, but often of different tint; or by another variety differing in paper or watermark. Hence is explained how only one or two stamps of the same series are found with one sort of watermark, or how the stamps of a new emission only come out successively and at long intervals, the earlier being exhausted when the later have only just appeared. The stamps of Ceylon have furnished us with an instance of this.

The explanation of two kinds of watermark on the stamps of a new series, emitted simultaneously, like that of Western Australia in 1865, is more difficult. Must the necessary use of ready-prepared paper be allowed? We suppose so. The event

will show whether our previsions are correct. We may, however, remark that this circumstance, if not generally known, will some day cause embarrassment to future collectors. We have, perhaps, for a similar reason, committed some involuntary error.

If the watermark or the paper can indicate the epoch of emission, the presence, absence, or nature of perforations will rather serve to establish the date and simultaneousness of emission. But nothing is absolute in this respect, and the same stamps are frequently seen to exist by turns with or without perforation, and for which anomaly no explication can be given. This fact is remarkably observable in the St. Helena sixpenny.

It would be interesting to trace back the epoch of the issue of stamps with different watermarks and that of their emission. We have very often indicated this, but such a labour is not always possible. The date of emission, or appearance, of a stamp only declares approximately that of its issue or creation. The epoch of the emission of the principal types has been noted; but that of the varieties, especially as regards obsolete stamps, has been neglected. Nevertheless, by comparing one with the other, those dates which are known to us, and, with respect to the British colonies, those that have employed the same watermark, we have arrived at the following result, which we offer with all due reserve.

1. Bluish paper was generally used for the earliest issues of a country. Some catalogues give it in 1851 and 1852.

2. Thick white and laid papers come next, alone or both successively.

3. Stamps with the star watermark were issued from 1857 till 1861; but some countries employ the same up to the present time.

4. Stamps on toned unwatermarked paper range from 1861 to 1863.

5. Stamps watermarked with a crown and double C date from 1863, and continue to the present time.

6. Stamps with double-lined figures for watermark should date from about 1860:

those with single-lined figures began to replace them in 1862.

However, there is nothing absolute in this indication. Countries having a special watermark, have sometimes either adopted the double C and crown, as Western Australia; or else replaced a star by a special watermark, as N. Z. for the New Zealanders: Jamaica retains its pine-apple.

Countries whose designs approach nearest to perfection are usually destitute of watermark. The English stamps, on the contrary, whose design leaves nothing lacking, are an exception. On the contrary, the rudimentary impressions of Liberia, Corrientes, and New Caledonia are unwatermarked.

Finally, if some have been lithographed on laid, not one, as far as our experience goes, is so on watermarked paper. The watermark is almost always found with typographically-printed stamps; but more rarely with those which are impressed in relief.

CANCELLED, OR UNCANCELLED?

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

CONSIDERABLE difference of opinion exists amongst English collectors as to which are the best to collect—new or obliterated stamps. The question has already engaged the attention of continental amateurs; but has never been openly discussed here, and it is in the hope of ventilating it that we are now induced to bring the subject under the notice of collectors.

As, perhaps, the weaker side, let us look first at the arguments produced in favour of the collection of obliterated specimens. It is, in the first place, said that the postmark affords an additional guarantee of the genuineness of the stamp. This may be true of the cheaper varieties, but a forger, wishing to palm off his counterfeits of the rarer kinds, would not neglect to copy and impress the cancellation, to give them a better chance of escaping detection. It is more to the point to urge the value of the postmark as an evidence of the date of emission, or duration of currency. Even the shape of the obliterating stamp, where no date is given, will, in many cases, be sufficient

proof. The obliterations have not yet received the attention they merit; they deserve to be carefully catalogued, both for their intrinsic worth—as showing the different modes of cancellation in different countries—and for their value in assisting to determine questions of date. Whenever, hitherto, the postmarks have been properly studied, they have been found of great use—as was shown in the able article on Peruvian stamps, in a former number of the magazine. But the objection has been made that a collection of stamps is not the proper receptacle for such evidences—that, in fact, they are only needed by compilers of catalogues. This is not, however, a very sound reason; for nothing is more certain than that the great mass of stamp-lore has been accumulated by the rank-and-file of collectors. There is, therefore, good cause to expect further additions to the general stock of knowledge, if their enthusiasm be not damped. The chronology of stamps, it is true, is more settled now than formerly; but there are still many points in dispute, and many of the dates authoritatively given must be mere approximations. Beside the excellencies already stated to belong to obliterated stamps, there is this further one, that they are, in one sense, more perfectly postage stamps than the immaculates. If their design is less distinct, they have at any rate received their injuries whilst doing their appointed duty. It may therefore be said that a cancelled specimen is as much superior to an uncanceled, as a war-worn veteran in soiled uniform is to the spick-and-span recruit, fresh from the barrack and the tailor. The unused stamps *might have* prepaid postage; but it is their fate to rest free from defacement in a collector's album, and never to do that for which they were created.

Now, let us look at the other side of the question, and note the virtues of new stamps. The advantage of having a clean and perfect specimen, showing the whole of the design, is one which will occur immediately to every collector, and it can hardly be over-rated. To show by these examples the state of art in the country from which they emanate, is one important aim in collecting. An album filled with bright unused

stamps, is undeniably a more pleasing object than a similar book containing none but blotched specimens. The uncanceled, of course, show all the interesting minutiae of the design, and also the inscriptions, which are often interesting. There is, however, great difficulty in getting undefaced copies of the rarer stamps, except a collector be content with reprints. In our own opinion, a great deal of unmerited abuse has been lavished upon reprints, for they are certainly impressions from the original plates, in the original colours, and, where possible, on paper of the class originally used. They may indeed be termed *posthumous* impressions, as they are taken after the series to which they belong has ceased to circulate, but in all other respects they are equal to the unused *remanents* which rich collectors purchase. When it is considered how many a vacant space there would be in the majority of albums but for reprints, philatelists have cause to be grateful to the governments who have permitted them to be made. At the worst, they are infinitely superior to counterfeits, and nothing checks the sale of forgeries so much as the offer of the genuine article at a low price. Philatelic princes may decry re-impressions, as they are able themselves to obtain, or already have, the almost price-less originals, and feel the value of these much-prized rarities depreciated by the multiplication of specimens, equally genuine, though doubtless of inferior worth; but collectors of moderate means, who have, perhaps, entered the field late in the day, and find that there is no chance of getting scarce originals, except when a good album is broken up, are not sorry to have reprints to occupy their places.

In conclusion, it seems to us that the difficulty of obtaining either used or unused specimens of every variety, should deter philatelists from resolving to collect one or the other class exclusively. Perhaps the most feasible plan is to give unused the preference, but not to despise the obliterated; in fact, to take what one can get. But some amateurs form supplementary collections of postmarked stamps, for the special purpose of showing the different kinds of cancellation, and we think the example a good one.

However, as we stated at the commencement, in penning these remarks our desire is not to close the subject, but to leave it open for discussion.

SICILIAN STAMPS AND ESSAYS.

TRANSLATED BY PERMISSION FROM 'LE TIMBRE-POSTE.'

THE first traces we find of an official discussion relative to the introduction of postage stamps into Sicily date Nov. 23rd, 1857; we have reason for believing, however, that the question had been previously mooted. This discussion had reference to the device, colour, and paper, as well as the obliterating mark of the stamps.

There was but little opposition to the choice of the sovereign's head for the design, as the armorial bearings of the country were already employed in the Neapolitan provinces. This decision facilitated fiscal arrangements, the budgets of the two kingdoms being quite distinct.

One might imagine the choice of various hues would be now easy, and of minor importance. By no means; in a government so disturbed and suspicious as that of the Two Sicilies, such a matter, on the contrary, must be highly momentous, since it was necessary to discard in the first place all colours out of which certain combinations, obnoxious to the government, might be made. For the same motive, red and green* were proscribed colours in Naples, as appears from a letter addressed to the lieutenant-general on the day above mentioned, by the minister of finance. This reminds us of a manifestation at Venice, after the events of 1859, at which epoch it appears that all letters and envelopes were used on mourning paper and stamped with the 3 soldi *black*—the public preferring to pay an extra soldo occasionally rather than employ values otherwise coloured! We cite this fact as related to us, and, although not at all unlikely, we leave the responsibility thereof to the narrator, who declares himself to have been an eye-witness of the circumstances.

But, returning to the shades proposed for the Sicilian stamps. This question was pro-

* These hues, combined with white, constitute the well-known cockade and banner of the Italians.

visionally deferred until the best *system* for settling it could be fixed upon. At first, one single colour (as with the Neapolitans) was proposed for all values; but this project was set aside in favour of another still more confusing—viz., that of employing a uniform hue for the three higher values, *because they would be less used*, but reserving a shade for the four lower ones, as being in most frequent service. The debaters finished where they ought to have begun, by adopting the most rational system, that of distinguishing the values by the colours.

The choice of paper was soon settled. That used at Naples, watermarked with fleurs-de-lis, and bearing at each corner the manufacturer's cipher, and the words *BOLLI DI POSTA*, was first thought of. But a laid paper, without special mark, was provisionally decided on, for the purpose of establishing a decided distinction between it and that employed in the Neapolitan provinces.

The cancelling mark was the final topic for adjustment. The correspondence exchanged on this subject between the minister of finance and the lieutenant-general, did our restricted space allow its publication, would not be uninteresting to our readers. It would show the extreme solicitude with which a means of obliteration, that should respect the *sacred* effigy of the king was sought after. The result of these researches is easily observable.*

Experience demonstrating the difficulty of applying this mark, somebody actually *dared*, in a moment of forgetfulness, to suggest replacing it by an oblong dated stamp, that would annul several labels at once. This irreverent project must be owned wanting in common sense, forasmuch as the laws formally designated the place where the dated official stamp was to be applied—viz., on the back of the letter, where the labels were never placed—consequently this mode could not prevail without transgressing that law. Moreover, as previously hinted, such disfigurement of his Majesty would be a species of petty treason!

* [We have heard another version of the history of this cancelling mark: that the eminent engraver who designed the stamp refused to do so unless under guarantee that his workmanship should not be *disfigured* by the hideous blotches then in such general use.—ED.]

The revolutionary storm might be heard brewing in some later propositions, which we find on the 11th August, 1859. The more moderate suggested the French *dotted* obliterator; the more audacious, the cancelling mark of Naples. Cancel the King!!! The revolution of a few months settled all these projects.

Whilst the choice of a stamp was being discussed, M. J. B—— proposed a style of



printing which would work off three thousand stamps per day of the type here represented, the device and inscription of which were in relief. This was submitted

as a specimen of engraving only, M. J. B—— engaging to substitute any other suggested design. The postal administration must have paid some attention to this project; for on the sheet submitted for approval, containing thirty-six specimens of different shades of colour in three rows, we find the figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, placed underneath certain hues.

It was on February 28th, 1858, that King Ferdinand pronounced his approval of the type submitted to him by the minister of finance. We have before us the very specimen sheet presented; it is faded and soiled by time—but the most fastidious could not contest its authenticity. The explanation of contents is written in small round hand. The translation reads thus:—

No. 1. Photographic proof of the *sacred* effigy of the King, our august Lord, to be engraved by the celebrated Aloisio.

This photograph, size of the known stamp, stands in a gold frame in the centre of the top of the sheet.

No. 2. Pattern of the obliterator mark.

This, which is the one actually adopted, is drawn in pencil below No. 1.

No. 3. Pattern of the stamps, and their various hues in oil-colours for distinguishing each value. The Sovereign's effigy will stand in the centre of every impression.

These patterns are seven frames, placed in juxtaposition, printed in colour on white. The centre is coloured, and the inscriptions are all alike: BOLLO DELLA, on the left; POSTA, above; DI SICILIA, on the right; and G. 10, below. The first shade is yellow,

succeeded by bistre, greenish blue, red, deep red, deep violet, and deep violet-brown.

No. 4. Pattern of a complete postage stamp, already bearing the post-office obliterator mark.

This postage stamp is merely a strongly-shaded photograph cancelled by the No. 2 mark. The framework is blue. It is affixed on the top to a bright violet background like those of No. 3.

After these explanations, we read at the foot of the sheet on the left—

Fully approved by his Majesty (Dei Gratia), through letter from the Lieutenant-Colonel Severino, at Gaeta, February 28th, 1858.

CASSISI.

And on the right—

Carlo La Barbera, dis. 1858.

The royal sanction once obtained, the following decree was issued:—

Ischia, July 5th, 1858.

FERDINAND II.—

By the grace of God, King of the Two Sicilies, Jerusalem, &c.; Duke of Parma, Piacenza, Castro, &c.; Hereditary Grand Prince of Tuscany, &c.

In accordance with the articles 11 to 14 of the royal decree of July 9th, 1857, thus conceived:

Art. 11. The tariff for letters shall be uniform throughout the royal domains, irrespective of distance. It shall be graduated solely according to the employment of one or two sheets; and, if more than two, then according to weight.

Art. 12. The uniform charge for each single letter, consisting, that is to say, of one sheet only, shall be 2 grana; for a sheet and a-half, 3 grana; and for two sheets, 4 grana. With regard to the weight of letters consisting of more than two sheets, the charge will be augmented by 5 gr., from 5 *trappesi* up to an ounce, which pays 8 gr. Below an ounce weight there shall be an abatement in equal proportion, fractions of a *trappeso* being disregarded. The charge for correspondence within the capital, or between parishes of the same district, shall be 1 grana, with the above-mentioned graduations.

Art. 13. The uniform postal tariff for newspapers, and printed matter of all kinds, shall be $\frac{1}{2}$ grana per sheet.

Art. 14. Letters, non-prepaid by postage labels, shall be subject, in addition to the previously-mentioned charges, to a further payment of *one-half* the same, according to number of sheets or weight.

In accordance with the 15th article of the same royal decree, prescribing the provisional continuance of the system now in vogue for the correspondence between the two parts of the royal domains, till the introduction of postage stamps into Sicily:

On the proposition of our Ministerial Secretaries of State for the affairs and finances of Sicily;

Our ordinary State Council having been heard;

We have resolved to decree and hereby decree as follows:—

Art. 1. From January 1st, 1859, when the employment of postage stamps will be adopted in Sicily, the present provisional system shall cease. The arrangements

specified in the above-cited 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th articles shall be extended to the postal correspondence of the interior of Sicily, and to that between the two portions of the royal domains.

Art. 2nd. Prepayment shall be made by means of the several stamps emitted in each part of the kingdom; but the charge made for unpaid letters shall always be for the benefit of the treasury in the place of destination.

Art. 3. Our Ministerial Secretaries of State for the affairs and finances of Sicily shall formalise and submit for the Sovereign's approval, some regulations for the purpose of preventing fraud or any evasion of postal duties within the two portions of the Royal domains.

[The 4th Article simply confirms the above.]

Signed, FERDINAND.

[Various official signatures follow.]

When M. Aloisio had finished the type entrusted to him, he submitted some proofs, eight in number, on strong paper, bearing at the upper left corner the ministerial hand-stamp (*il MINISTERO PER GLI AFFARI DI SICILIA PRESSO S. R. M.*). They are $\frac{1}{2}$ gr., pale blue; 1 gr., deep blue; 2 gr., violet; 5 gr., olive yellow; 10 gr., yellow; 20 gr., carmine; and two 50 gr. stamps, vermilion; one of which is cancelled with the mark approved. All these proofs bear below them the figure 8 in pencil, except the 20 gr. and 50 gr., where that figure has been changed for a 5. Below the 5 gr. we find also the words, MODIFIED YELLOW.

Additional to the specimens furnished by M. Aloisio, we have those presented in August, 1858, by M. La B——, appointed to print the new type. We know of the following— $\frac{1}{2}$ gr., lilac, deep blue, black, greenish blue, ochre, olive, vermilion, grey, and carmine. The minister of finance, to whom these specimens were submitted, was far from being satisfied therewith, their impressions being very defective; but, pressed by time, because the published decree had fixed the issue of stamps for the 1st of January, 1859, he was unwillingly obliged to entrust their emission to M. La B——, whose dismissal was resolved upon from that very day. He lost no time, however, for immediately on receipt of the authorization he expedited the issue of the stamps; and in the earlier part of December, 1858, all the post-offices and vendors of postage stamps were fully supplied. The sheets measured something under a foot by ten inches, and contained each one hundred individuals in ten rows. The colours of each value are so well known that we need not mention them.

On the 29th of November, 1858, appeared at last the following singular decree.

Caserta, Nov. 29th, 1858.

FERDINAND II.,—

By the grace of God, King, &c.

In accordance with the report of our Lieutenant-General in Sicily, &c., &c.

We decree, 1st. From the 1st of January, 1859, letters and *feuilletons*, destined for the interior of the two parts of the kingdom and for abroad, shall be prepaid by means of postage stamps representing the value of the postal charges.

The employment of the postage stamp is optional.

Prepayment by means of postage stamps is obligatory in the case of newspapers and printed matter of all kinds, both for home and foreign transmission.

2nd. The stamps shall bear our effigy—the inscription: *BOLLO DELLA POSTA DI SICILIA*—and the designation of their value. They shall be of seven different kinds— $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50 grana.

3rd. They shall be printed and sold for the benefit of the Government. There shall be a *dépôt* of them at the general post-office, in all the head post-offices of the provincial chief towns, and throughout all districts in the offices of individuals authorized by the government to deal in them.

4th. None other than those specified in Art. 3 shall be allowed to sell them, under a penalty of 20 ducats, and the forfeiture of all postage stamps seized, for the benefit of the state.

5th. Postage-stamp dealers, who shall sell, or cause them to be sold elsewhere than at their *dépôt*, shall be considered as transgressing the preceding article.

6th. Dealers in postage stamps, who shall not be found by the government agents in possession of a sufficient supply for a fortnight's use, shall be fined according to the circumstances—6 ducats for the first offence, and on a second transgression, besides this fine, shall be deprived of their office.

7th. In order that no stamps be used a second time, the postal clerks shall imprint on them a black stamp of the design approved by ourselves, before dispatching the letters.

8th. Clerks and others attached to the administration or service of the royal post-offices, who may take any stamps off the letters for the purpose of using or selling them, shall be considered as defrauding the royal finances and punished according to the terms of Art. 213 of the penal laws.

9th. Whoever shall falsify or counterfeit the postage stamps; the clerks abusing their situation who shall commit such a crime in the very offices of the royal government; the distributors of falsified or counterfeit stamps; those who shall knowingly make use or procure the sale of the same; individuals who shall fabricate plates, or other utensils, or machines destined for the manufacture of fictitious stamps; and those who, aware of the fabrication of falsities, shall fail to disclose the fact to the administrative or judicial authorities; shall be punished, according to the circumstances, under the terms of the 263rd article of penal laws relative to the counterfeiting of copper coin, and under the terms of the 265th, 266th, and 271st of the same laws.

10th. The value of the one or more postage labels fixed to a letter, must correspond with the postal tariff. Should such value be lower than half the proper amount, the receiver must pay the whole of the prescribed sum; should it, on the contrary, not be less, the post-office

clerk shall note on the letter the deficiency to be paid on its receipt.

11th. The tariff and prepayment of letters, whether for the interior of Sicily or abroad, is regulated by the royal decree of July 5th, 1858.

12th. The annexed regulation is approved by ourselves.

13th. All laws, decrees, and regulations of the royal postal service, which are not annulled by the present decree, shall continue in force.

14th. Our ministerial Secretary of State for the affairs of Sicily, and our Lieutenant-General in Sicily, are charged with the execution of this decree.

Signed, FERDINAND.

[Other official signatures follow.]

As we have remarked before, the financial minister was unsatisfied with M. La B——, for furnishing with defective impressions only. The minister was doubtless unaware that the most successful type is susceptible of producing inferior proofs when confided to unskilled hands, for we find him conferring with M. P——, for the purpose of obtaining from that gentleman a type congenerie with the disgraced one. It will be seen by the succession of stamps furnished by M. P—— how ill-founded was the ministerial choice. Gratefully unwilling to abuse the confidence placed in his talent, M. P——, by application to coadjutors, hoped for the attainment of that capability for which he felt himself inadequate. He obtained the following:—

Type 1st. The effigy of king Ferdinand to the left, has a lozenge-shaped trellis-work for back-ground; around the frame reads—BOLLO DELLA POSTA DI SICILIA. No figure of value. There are proofs in grey and blue. The system of impression used for this stamp is identical with that formerly employed in



Peru for the fabrication of the obsolete issues. A hundred thousand stamps per day could be worked off on endless rolls of paper. The minister, not considering the King's effigy a likeness, made a remark to that effect, on which M. P—— hastened to replace his type by another still less successful. The King's portrait was on a ground of uniform colour: the same inscription and want of



monetary designation. Our proof was printed black on a white ground.

This second essay obliged the minister to remind M. P—— that he must positively keep to the type engraved by M. Aloisio.

M. P—— then set to work again, and some time after produced his third *chef d'œuvre*, of which we possess proofs in black and blue on white paper, still without indication of value. We have also the following: $\frac{1}{2}$ gr., greenish blue; 1 gr., blue; 2 gr., lilac; 5 gr., orange; 5 gr., vermilion; 10 gr., olive-yellow; 10 gr., deep blue; 20 gr., pink; and



50 gr., vermilion. With a slight exercise of the imagination a pale imitation of the type then in use may be traced; but that did not satisfy the minister—he wanted something better. The type was refused.

M. P——, whose perseverance merited better results, managed to prove by a fourth type both his own inability and that of his assistants. Seeking to fascinate the minister, this time he enlivened his stamp by placing fleurs-de-lis at the four angles, and substituting a beading of pearls for the simple white band of the framework of the others.



Notwithstanding, and possibly on account of these intended beautifications, this type, which we have seen printed in grey, was no luckier than its predecessors.

Weary of these fruitless essays, the minister of finance, in despair, bethought himself of the offers he had formerly received from M. J. B——, offers which the latter had accompanied with a specimen of engraving and printing, which we have already given and noted as refused. To his great astonishment M. J. B—— learned that he was entrusted with the execution of an embossed type representing the portrait of King Ferdinand. Unfortunately for M. B., political events annihilated the received orders, the landing of Garibaldi and his followers at Marsala, on the 10th May, 1860, definitively suppressed all the ministerial projects of postage-stamp reform.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

'HONOUR to whom honour is due'—dishonour ditto.—In our last number we were taken to task for errors and shortcomings which we beg to remark were not *all* our own fault. Should ought be amiss in the present number, we shall follow Caleb Balderstone's example in the *Bride of Lammermoor*, who declared he would attribute all future deficiencies to the 'great fire,'—and lay the blame on the Prussians. In fact, the excitement has been such, while we were penning the articles for the present and succeeding months, that we may well be excused minor slips or omissions. We had just completed the translation of the paper on Sicilians, when the troops of Prussia came pouring past our windows, to the number of several thousands; and doubtful of forthcoming events, we rushed out to post it without waiting a re-perusal, not knowing but that all foreigners might be ordered to evacuate forthwith. A few days previously a troop had made a raid, but contented themselves with carrying off a couple of weighty coffers full of cash, requiring eight men as bearers! They had previously visited us, terrifying the inhabitants and frightening away half the visitors; and now, while writing this, they come a fourth time, but this once, as far as we can understand, having suffered a defeat from the Federal troops near Frankfort.

HAMBURG.—The appended cut represents the latest novelty from the free (to forge) city. It will be seen at a glance that the design differs only from the lately-emitted



that a distinction is made in order to preserve the individuality of the former value, or perhaps it is intended to emit an entirely new series of the $1\frac{1}{4}$ sch. type. After having long been represented only by the primary seven values, Hamburg can now

envelopes in having a rectangular outer frame, and the corners filled in with diagonal lines. It is not easy to understand why the new $1\frac{1}{4}$ sch. is not identical in design with the $1\frac{1}{2}$ sch. It may be

boast the possession of fifteen adhesives and seven envelopes, and the latter will doubtless soon be augmented by the still unrepresented values—1 sch., $1\frac{1}{4}$ sch., and 9 sch., making a grand total of twenty-five.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—Our first engraving will bear out our laudatory remarks in the July magazine, touching the newly-issued 5 cents of these islands. Further observations are unnecessary, other than that the representation faithfully embodies all the beauties of the stamp, with the



exception of the rich celestial blue colour.

DANUBIAN COMPANY.—This, one of the oldest and most influential of European steam - navigation companies, has just emitted a stamp similar in its use to the 'Too Late' of Victoria. Our information is incomplete as to the degree in which this company is connected with the Austrian postal service, but it would seem that it conveys letters up the Danube, and is permitted to charge for its own benefit an extra fee of 17 soldi (represented by the stamp here engraved) upon all letters posted on board one of its vessels 'after time.' The new emission is printed in rose upon white paper, denticulated, but without watermark.



packets destined for the interior of the Saxon kingdom, which is termed RAYON 1. The series consists of five values—1 neugr. rose, 2 neugr. lilac, $2\frac{1}{2}$ neugr. rose, 3 neugr.

SAXONY.—DRESDEN EXPRESS COMPANY.—The unique type here given is the production of this company, which has enlarged the sphere of its operations, its new emission being intended to frank

salmon, and 5 neugr. green. All are printed on coloured paper, except the 1 neugr., which is on white. The prices represented by these stamps are far below those charged by the royal post-office for the same service, whilst the security afforded by the company is equal. We presume the packets intended to be conveyed are equivalent to our book-post parcels; the stamps will not therefore be inadmissible, and, indeed, their peculiar style of device, reminding one in its effect of a church window, will render them pleasing additions.

We take this opportunity to note the existence of "Feldpost" (field-post) envelopes, issued gratis to the Saxon troops. Soldiers' letters enclosed in them are forwarded and delivered free of charge. They bear the simple inscription K.S. FELDPOST BRIEF FREI. Devoid of beauty, they will yet doubtless be preserved as interesting mementoes of the present strife long after it has ceased.

PERSIA.—We are informed by a foreign journal that the issue of Persian stamps, of the design figured in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for December last, will take place in a few days.

MONTEVIDEO.—It is stated by another foreign journal, *Le Timbre Poste*, to be the intention of the Urnguyan postal authorities to issue stamped envelopes. Two proofs of a projected 5 c. have already been seen. The design is similar to that of the adhesives—a large figure, with armorial shield, in centre of an oval—REPUBLICA DEL URUGUAY, above; MONTEVIDEO, below; and on each side a small star. The proofs are embossed on white paper, and coloured respectively rose and light-brown. A Montevideo newspaper states that they are to be sold at the facial value of the stamp, no charge being made for the envelope, and the sole reason for the adoption of envelopes at all is stated by the same journal to be, that they save the trouble of sticking on the adhesives. The 'additional-security' argument of the English officials is not used.

VICTORIA.—The new tenpence, laurelled head of the Queen, reddish-brown in tinge, is printed on a paper of a red-brown colour, differing from that used

for the grey tenpence, which it immediately succeeds, in watermark. The new comer bears the numeral 10, à *trait simple*, in lieu of the figure 6 formed by a similar single line, found in the paper on which the grey tenpence appears.

PERU.—The new 5 centavos, the approaching advent of which was referred to in the last number of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, has come to light. It is in form, upright rectangular, of a bright green colour, printed on plain paper, without watermark, perforated. The design bears great general similarity in structure to that adopted for Costa Rica; the device on the shield being a pair of llamas, one with its burthen, picturesquely grouped beside a rock, with the agave, or aloe, of the country, introduced as an accessory. The shield is surmounted by two labels bearing CORREOS PERU and PORTE FRANCO, respectively, with a figure 5 in the centre of the upper label. Below, in a straight line, CINCO CENTAVOS; the space between the edge of the shield and the borders is filled up by arabesque and floral ornamentation. The whole appearance of the stamp is creditable to its producers, the American Bank-Note Company; but we confess to a decided preference for some of their other designs; we hope to give an illustration of the stamp next month, which will afford all further details needful to a complete description.

FINLAND.—TAMMERFORS.—In the correspondence columns our readers will find a full and interesting account of a stamp just issued for the service of the little town of Tammerfors. We have only to add, that in appearance it is a reminder of the Helsingfors, and that we purpose giving an engraving of it in our next number.

BRAZIL.—Just at the moment of going to press, we have seen the new issue of this empire; the advent of which is heralded in our last month's number (page 103). These stamps are the production of the American Bank-Note Company of New York, and, in common with all the designs emanating from this firm, are of considerable beauty and refinement; nevertheless, we are bound to say that the issues of Nova Scotia, and others from the hands of the same engravers, are,

in our judgment, far superior to this, their most recent effort, both in chasteness of design and elegance of the general effect. How far our criticism is just, our numerous readers will soon have an opportunity of judging for themselves.

The stamps we have received are of seven different values and designs. They are of an upright rectangular form; printed in colour on white paper, without watermark, and perforated. The colours and values are as follows:—

| | |
|---------|------------|
| 10 reis | vermilion. |
| 20 " | lilac. |
| 50 " | deep-blue. |
| 80 " | lilac. |
| 100 " | green. |
| 200 " | black. |
| 500 " | orange. |

Five of them, viz.,—10, 50, 80, 100, and 500 reis, bear, in a central oval or circle, the portrait of the present emperor, evidently engraved after a photographic likeness, and showing the bust, nearly full face, turned towards the right. The head bears the impress of considerable intellectual power, and the lower part of the face betokens great firmness; if the likeness be faithful, his imperial majesty is a noble-looking man. He is represented in plain attire, without any decoration or insignia of rank.

The 20 and the 200 reis show a portrait which, at the moment we cannot name, but it is that of an elderly man, bearded and moustached, represented in profile to the left. When we give, as we hope to, next month, an engraving of the stamps, we will supply the further information we do not now possess. Each of the stamps slightly varies in design, and the accessories and details are different.

At the top of all the word BRAZIL appears, and the value in words at the foot of each stamp. In the five, bearing the portrait of the present Emperor, at each lower angle the value is placed in figures; while in the pair with the unknown likeness corresponding figures are found on each side of the head.

We are unable to detect in the ornaments any special device peculiar to the empire of Brazil; we notice the rose, and what we

think is a tulip, with smaller flowers in some of the series, and fancy ornaments in the others.

We have named the colour of both the 20 and 80 reis as lilac; in the specimens before us the latter is somewhat of a darker hue than the former, but not sufficiently distinct to enable us to call them different colours. It is, however, impossible to speak with certainty on this point from a single copy, without an opportunity of comparison with others.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Stamp Dealer's Advertiser. Liverpool: J. C. Wroe.

'THE leading principle by which we are actuated is to take advantage of the universal appetite for anything appertaining to *philatelic*, and to supply it with information at the lowest possible price—i.e., *gratis*.' Such are the aim and intention of the latest British stamp journal, an unpretending four-page publication. The contents of the first number are a well-written preface, a review of Oppen's album, and a paragraph concerning the Papal States, containing the information that a new issue is in contemplation, with value in *centesimi*, in consequence of the intended introduction of the decimal coinage into the Roman territories. The residue of the paper is filled with advertisements. It is well printed, and no one can complain of the price.

The Stamp-Collector's Monthly Gazette. St. John, New Brunswick: George Stewart, jun.

THE continuance of this magazine is evidence of the undiminished popularity of philately in our North American colonies. It commences with the June number its second volume, and now makes its appearance enlarged by four pages, and embellished with an elaborate heading. The increased size is due to the influx of advertisements, and these, we are glad to observe, still occupy a considerable space. The contents, with the exception of a tale, are strictly postal and interesting. Amongst other things, we find the Newfoundland stamps are made the subject of a short but careful

and trustworthy paper. Mr. Pemberton contributes a description of the forgeries of the old issue for Turkey, and a too-complete list of novelties is given, as it includes a couple of Bremen revenue stamps. There is rather an ardent tone about some of the editorial remarks—such, for instance, as the following:—

Young swains of New Brunswick, to the rescue, if you would win the approving and loving smiles of a young and handsome maiden; tax and worry your brains to their utmost capacity, and solve this, the most difficult enigma that has ever appeared in the *Gazette*, and when you have succeeded, present the answer to her, and you will, we feel assured, receive in return thanks most grateful and beautiful to behold.

This extract will at any rate serve to show that the pursuit of stamp collecting is not detrimental to gallantry.

More care is requisite on the part of the corrector for the press. In the number before us, several typographical errors occur which a little watchfulness would have prevented. Of these we need only name 'timbophilyic,' 'legislators,' 'boquet,' 'perceptable,' as instances.

We trust that such trivial, but noticeable defects will be remedied in future numbers, and that the *Gazette* will long continue to represent the collecting community of the 'North American Confederation.'

OLD LETTERS.

OLD letters! oh then spare them—they are priceless for their age!

I love—oh how I love to see each yellow time-stained page! They tell of joys that are no more, of hopes that long have fled;

OLD letters! oh then spare them—they are sacred to the dead!

They tell of times, of happy times, in years long, long gone by,

Of dear ones who have ceased to live but in the memory; They picture many a bright, bright scene in sunny days of yore,

OLD letters! oh then spare them for they are a priceless store!

Old am I too, and grey-haired now—deserted and alone, And all of those I once could call my friends, alas! are gone.

Yet oft at midnight's stilly hour, in solitude's retreat, With each one in his silent tomb I hold communion sweet.

OLD letters! here is one—the hand of youth is on its face; Ah that was from a brother young in some far foreign place;

A sailor-boy, beloved by all, frank, open-hearted, brave— Cold, cold and lonesome is his rest beneath the Atlantic wave.

Another, stained with dark red spots, as clasped by bloody hands,
Was found beneath a father's corpse on dread Corunna's sands;
A stranger hand with kindly care conveyed the relic dear—
Old letters! ye are priceless, ye have cost a widow's tear.

Another—know I not that hand? Oh she was bright and fair;
Too pure, too gentle, and too good for angels long to spare

Her to this earth of grief and woe: well, Death, thou might'st be vain,
Thou hast not such another flower in all thy dark domain!

Oh! ye are now the only links that bind us to the past;
Sweet, sweet memorials of the days too happy far to last.
The tear-drop fills again the eye which tears had almost fled.

Old letters! ye are precious, ye are sacred to the dead!

Chambers's Journal.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

THE RIGI-KALTBAD STAMPS are enclosed in pink envelopes, each containing 250. These envelopes resembling those used by the Swiss post-office for the same purpose, are inscribed on the face thus:—

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Francomarken,</i> | | <i>Timbriposte,</i> |
| <i>Zu 15 rappen.</i> | | <i>à 15 centimes.</i> |
| | 250 | |
| <i>in 10 blättern.</i> | | <i>en 10 feuilles.</i> |
| | <i>Fr. 37, 50.</i> | |

By this it will be seen that the monetary value of these stamps is 15 centimes.

GEESTEMUNDE.—In July, 1865, we replied to our correspondent's (Amicus) inquiries respecting the meaning of the word *Geestemunde*, when found on Hanoverian letters. A recent newspaper paragraph, which we subjoin, relating to the present war, throws additional light on the subject. 'OCCUPATION OF PORT GEESTEMUNDE BY THE PRUSSIANS.—The Hansa, just arrived from Bremen, brings intelligence that the Prussians took formal possession, on Saturday, July 14th, of the Hanoverian port, *Geestemunde*, near Bremen, in the presence of Prussian and Hanoverian commissioners, and it is supposed that *Geestemunde* will at once be made a Prussian naval port.' The *Geeste* is an insignificant river which falls into the Weser near its confluence with the sea, hence the name of the port; *münde* being German for the mouth of a river.

SALE OF AMERICAN DEAD LETTERS BY AUCTION.—The great sale of articles accumulated through the year in the dead-letter office was commenced in Washington on the 30th ult., and has been continued with the liveliest kind of bidding ever since. The *Star* says that over half the immense catalogue is of jewelry, largely of the 'dollar' sort, but with sprinkling enough of the genuine to induce a lively competition. Upwards of three hundred articles in the collection are packages of patent medicines, in the shape of pills, powders, unguents, oils, old school and new school, allopathic, homeopathic, Thompsonian, eclectic, and all sorts, for the relief of every malady known to man or woman. There are over one hundred and fifty gold (supposed to be) watches on the catalogue, and no end of silver watches. Also an indescribable medley of all the varieties of wares known to civilization. Among the articles thus passed through Uncle Sam's mails, finding their way to the dead-

letter office, are sets of shoemakers' tools, packages of type, ladies' wigs, bundles of clothing, duplicate parts of sewing-machines, packages of felt hats, iron cog-wheels (small), lots of lampwicks, dress elevators, false bosoms (ladies), shoulder straps, pieces of a piano, lamp burners, hundreds of military books, &c. The proceeds from the sale will be deposited, subject to the order of the owners, should any of them turn up.

A HINT TO OUR JUVENILE COLLECTORS.—The *Messager de Toggenburg* contains the following anecdote, illustrative at once of the assurance of Swiss boys and the amiability of Swiss dignitaries. 'A young *garçon* of twelve years,' says the *Messager*, 'of the primary school of Lichtensteig, who had commenced a collection of postage stamps, conceived the naive idea of addressing Monsieur the Federal Councillor Dubs. Without saying a word to any one, he wrote to that high magistrate, begging him to send the writer the stamps of foreign kingdoms. Some weeks passed, and the young solicitor began to fear that his application was unnoticed. At last he received, to his great but joyous stupefaction, a packet from Berne containing a complete collection of rare and beautiful foreign stamps, accompanied by a letter from Federal Councillor Dubs himself. Here is the letter:—"The commission which you gave me to procure some stamps of foreign countries to complete your collection caused me some little surprise—my time being generally occupied with things of a different character. But that the confidence you reposed in me might not be unrecompensed, I send you enclosed a collection of stamps of all foreign countries. Hoping thus to meet the desire you have expressed, I salute you with esteem—Jacob Dubs, Federal Councillor." Is not this adorable? Happy kingdom, where the little boys of twelve years correspond freely with the councillors of state, and the councillors of state reply in such terms to the letters of their little co-citizens!'"—*Le Collectionneur de Timbresposte*.

HOW THE PONY EXPRESS WAS ESTABLISHED.—The Pacific states, as they are called, of America, being separated from the rest by the wild sierra of the Rocky Mountains—canal, railway, or even good roads not yet being practicable in that region—communication necessarily becomes a difficulty. This difficulty was, however, overcome in 1860 by the enterprise of a private firm. Messrs. Russell, Major, & Waddell, who had been engaged as contractors for the conveyance of government stores, determined to establish a kind of express mail, by which letters should be conveyed in about a week between the two extreme points; depending partly on the commercial public and partly on the government for an adequate return. The contractors first built stations along the line of route at convenient intervals, stocking them plentifully; then purchased six hundred ponies or strong serviceable horses; then engaged a corps of fearless and trustworthy riders; and, finally, provided an equipment of riding-dress, letter-bags, revolvers, and rifles for the men. On the 9th of April, 1860, the service commenced. Two pony couriers started on the same day, one from San Francisco to come east, the other from St. Joseph, on the Missouri, to go west. When a pony had done his stage at twelve miles an hour, he was replaced by another; and when a courier had done as many stages as he could accomplish without rest, another took his place. Thus the mail-bags were travelling incessantly at the rate of twelve miles an hour. Each mail accomplished the nineteen hundred miles of distance in seven days and a half. The system soon became comparatively consolidated. The men suffered much from fatigue, hunger, cold, heat, and

especially from the attacks of Indians; but they persevered undauntedly; and the Pony Express might be considered an established fact, so to remain until something better be received.—*The Book of Days*.

A 'LOCAL' CELEBRITY.—MR. HUSSEY was born in the city of New York, on the 27th day of February, 1812. His father had died nearly two months prior to his birth, and, as a consequence, he was early thrown upon his own unaided resources. Thus was developed in him that remarkable energy and self-reliance for which he is so noted, and by which he has been enabled to take his stand among the prominent self-made men of our great metropolis. In 1836 he was appointed to a position in the old Bank of New York, which institution he served ably and faithfully for nearly twenty years. At the end of that period he entered upon the business in which he is now engaged, first introducing the Special Message Post to the New York public in September, 1854, under the title of the 'Bank and Insurance City Post,' with an office at No. 82, Broadway. His well-known probity and business energy speedily secured for him an extensive patronage; and, in 1858, he removed to his present location, No. 50, William Street; and considerably enlarged his field of operations. 'Hussey's Instant Special Message Post,' to which he now changed the title of his institution, quickly became almost a household word upon the lips of the down-town business men of the city, who evidenced by the liberality of their patronage their ready appreciation of its merits. For the benefit of such as have not been fortunate enough to become aware of the existence in their midst of an extensive and well-organized system of special-message delivery, we will briefly refer to a few of its leading features. It is designed in general terms to do for you, with reliability and dispatch, such errands of business or pleasure as it may not be convenient for you to do yourself. Do you wish a draft, a note, or a check to be promptly presented for payment, certification, or acceptance?—step into 50, William street, and one of Hussey's many messengers (of which there are from twenty-five to forty constantly employed) stands ready harnessed to spring at your request and do your bidding. Do you wish a note, a package, or a bundle delivered at any part of this city, or of Brooklyn, Jersey City, Yorkville, Harlem, Staten Island, anywhere, in fact, in this vicinity? do you wish to distribute your business or professional circulars, or to have notices, papers, or pamphlets of any kind distributed?—Hussey and his messengers will do it for you with fidelity and speed. Regular messengers leave for the routes each day at 11 a.m. Everything left for delivery before the moment of starting will be, unless otherwise ordered, sent by them at a trifling charge. All matter subsequently presented may either lay over till the following morning, or be dispatched by a special messenger at once for a slight additional sum. These messengers are selected with great care and discrimination, and Mr. Hussey is, of course, personally responsible for their trustworthiness. In the character of all his *employés*, he says he confidently challenges competition.

Since the death of John T. Boyd, of Boyd's Post, Mr. Hussey has had no competition worth naming. At the time he first offered his services to the public, he had a supposed rival in the Metropolitan Errand and Carrier Post, which was just then started with a great flourish of trumpets; but, so great was the confidence felt by the business community in Hussey's integrity and energy, that he soon quite monopolized the business in this line, and in less than a year's time his rival was forced to succumb, and leave him master of the situation.—*Literary Album*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE TAMMERFORS STAMP.

To the Editor of 'THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—The following remarks will, perhaps, prove of some interest to your readers:—

The town of Tammerfors (Finnish, *Tammerkoski*), Finland, government of Abo (pronounced, *Obo*), has issued a new local stamp, similar to that of the town of Helsingfors (Finnish, *Helsingki*), emitted some weeks ago. It is not so neat in its appearance as the last-mentioned one; but must, however, be called a good-looking stamp. Form, oval; print, light green on white paper, without watermark. The oval contains the arms of Tammerfors—a shield, divided in two fields (whose colours are indicated by heraldic designations) by a blue bar, running from the right top to the left bottom; the bar contains the value of the stamp, 12 PENNI, in white letters; the latter is likewise indicated by figures on the top and both sides of the shield. The left field shows a T. (for Tammerfors); the right one, a Mercury's staff and a hammer (Finnish and Swedish, *tammer*); circumscription, on the top, TAMMERFORS; at the bottom, LOKAL POST.

It is originally a local stamp, but I have seen it twice on letters addressed to Germany.

Tammerfors is a small, but very industrial town, between $61\frac{1}{2}$ degrees, north latitude; with about 1,500 inhabitants. It is situated between the two lakes, Nasiljarvi and Sorvanselkä, north-west of Tavastehus, about 100 English miles from Helsingfors.

I beg to remain, dear Sir, yours very truly,

MAX JOSEPH.

Eydtkuhen, Prussia.

THE UNITED STATES POSTAGE CURRENCY.

To the Editor of 'THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—Though not directly pertaining to the science of philately, yet, as showing the use to which the ubiquitous postage stamp may be put, I have thought that a history of the United States postage currency might perhaps not be uninteresting to your readers.

In the latter part of the summer of 1862, the government issues of 'legal tender' paper money began to depreciate so as to cause a premium on gold and silver coin, and this latter, of course, soon going out of circulation, much trouble was caused in 'making change,' as the lowest paper issue was the one-dollar note. As a substitute for the coin, postage stamps, usually enclosed in packages labelled with the amount contained, were for a time employed; but as they soon became soiled and torn, so as scarcely to be distinguished from cancelled specimens, which began to be mixed among them, as well as for other obvious reasons, an outcry against postage stamps as currency arose on all sides, with a demand for some better substitute for the absent coin.

To meet this demand the government, doubtless taking its idea from the 'change' then in use, towards the close of 1862 issued the longed-for 'postage currency'; the values being 5, 10, 25, and 50 cents, replacing the obsolete silver coins of those respective values. The size of the two lower values was $1\frac{1}{2}$ by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, that of the other two, 2 by 3 inches. The former were composed respectively of a fac-simile 5-cent and 10-cent postage stamp, surrounded by ornamental work and inscriptions, printed in brown and green, like the stamps they represented; the latter consisted in a fac-simile of five 5-cent stamps, overlapping one another, to form the 25 cents (brown), and of five 10-cent stamps to form the 50 cent (green); ornamental

work, with figures, &c., being added to complete the design. In addition to this, engraved inscriptions were printed in black upon the back of each note.

These gave satisfaction and were issued for the space of a year, when, nominally on account of the numerous counterfeits of them, but in reality for another reason, a new issue of 'fractional currency' was put forth by the government to take their place, and a second distinct issue of the latter has since been made. It may be pleasing to the philatelist to learn that while the counterfeits of the 'postage' currency were invariably poor, and to be detected at first sight, those of its successor, the 'fractional' currency, are almost perfect, and, as a wags puts it, 'are only to be distinguished by their superior execution to the genuine.' The postage currency has mostly been called in and destroyed at the treasury, though a worn and dirty note occasionally falls into one's hand, but a set of the four values in a clean and perfect condition it would be almost impossible to procure. They were, I may say in conclusion, like all the engraved postage stamps of the United States, the work of the National Bank Note Company.

I remain, Sir, yours respectfully,

L. H. B.

West Springfield, Mass., U. S.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR GUM.

To the Editor of 'THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I have, in two or three numbers of your nicely-conducted periodical on stamps, observed the difficulty experienced by stamp collectors in hitting upon a suitable matter for affixing stamps in their albums. Since I have been a collector, I also have been alive to this difficulty, and have tried several ways of mounting stamps, and from my own experience I can, therefore, suggest one simple process, which, as it offers the advantage of simplicity, cleanliness, and immediate adhesiveness, I trust will be found useful to my *confrères* in stamp collecting. This process consists in using *gelatine*, which is a matter that photographers make use of in mounting photographs on cardboard. It is obtained in long, thin slips, and is prepared by simply boiling some of these slips in a small proportion of water until they become liquid, but *not thick*. This fluid is passed through a clean thin piece of linen, as filter, and is then ready. Whenever it is required for use, it must always be warmed, and a small quantity of it applied with a brush on the back of the stamp, which fixes itself at once on the book. If there is any stain round the stamp, caused by the inexperienced handling of the collector, it can be easily taken off by cleaning it with a small sponge slightly wetted. Every one that has seen how beautifully photographs are mounted now-a-days, and how easily they are removed from the cardboard, by putting them merely in water for half an hour, must at once perceive the beauty, simplicity, and excellence of this over all other adhesive matter. There is another way of sticking stamps in albums, which I have used until now, namely, to gum the backs of stamps and leave them to dry, and then use them as new stamps. But this operation, although simple in its appearance, requires great patience, time, and no end of trouble.

With regard to stamps being made moveable, I agree entirely with your correspondent in the June number. I consider, however, that it is now too late for introducing such a change in postage stamp albums. An album having on each page fourteen or twenty square cuttings the size of a stamp, with moveable cardboards

bearing the marked names of the stamps, introduced between the pages, on the plan of photographic albums, would offer a double advantage. Collectors would easily, and without spoiling or soiling their albums, change any of the stamps for new or less obliterated specimens; and by making the backs transparent, as suggested by the same correspondent, numbers, watermarks, colour of paper, and silk thread would be easily distinguished.

In concluding these hints, I shall add some suggestions about our postage. I have always considered it very hard for us, that while all British colonies—even St. Kitts—are now represented by their own particular stamps, our government has never had the idea of introducing a complete set of Malta stamps for foreign postage. Some particular emblem, such as a Maltese cross on a shield surrounded by a garland, with crown on the top, would be a suitable representation of our island, and an uncommon device for stamps. Besides, our local postage may be somewhat improved. Why not make a stamp of one farthing for a single copy of newspapers which are now sent to the country and to the sister island Gizo, *gratis*; and a halfpenny for a double number? It would always prove an income to government and a very trifling taxation to the people. Moreover, why not have one penny stamp for letters that exceed the regular weight for a halfpenny? Thus, by introducing such improvements, some more stamps would be added to the solitary one that now represents the 'Malta postage.' As stamp collecting is now so much in vogue, I venture to say, that the adoption of such a measure, would be a profitable speculation for our local authorities, and would gratify the feelings of our people. I trust that some one interested in the advancement of colonial postage will take up my hurried suggestions, and bring the matter to a successful termination.

Believe me, dear sir,

Yours very truly, J. S.

Malta.

[We fear our respected correspondent overrates our influence in official quarters. We have indeed inserted his concluding suggestions more on account of their interest as coming from a resident at Malta, than from any hope that by so doing they would be taken up, though we ourselves heartily coincide with his view of the matter.—ED.]

TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING.

To the Editor of 'THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Amongst the proverbs which do not lie is that which states that 'there is a medium in all things.' Stamp collecting is no exception to the general rule; it may be pushed so far as to become in truth what its detractors affirm it to be—ridiculous. And it seems to me that French amateurs are doing their best to make it so. Either from excess of zeal in their pursuit, or from a desire to preserve a distinction between themselves and the collecting world in general, they have endeavoured to create many and frivolous varieties of stamps.

Now, it is evident that philately does not require the assistance of such factitious stamps to make it interesting. As a correspondent recently argued in the pages of this magazine, the majority of collectors have quite enough to do to fill the spaces in their present albums. There is still a sufficient number of *bond fide* rarities to engage their attention and their purses. There can be, therefore, no necessity to invent trivial varieties, often difficult to obtain, and really not worth the trouble of securing. Yet the French make petty distinctions between stamps perforated and stamps rouletted, between large perforations and small, and even the number of holes made by the perforating machine is matter for serious study by Parisian amateurs; as is evident from the fact that their

leading journal gravely chronicles the fact, that whereas the number of perforations on the Russian 1, 3, and 5 kopee stamps was formerly 15 by 11, it is now 18 by 13! *Timbromania* is a very proper name for stamp collecting when it reaches that stage of absurdity.

I do not doubt that in many cases the watermark affords a means of distinguishing between different issues, but I can see little use in the careful notice of the various classes of paper on which stamps are printed. It can matter but little whether it is laid or woven, and the multiplication of varieties differing from each other solely in the quality of the paper, is more likely to confuse and dishearten collectors than to benefit them. The intrinsic value of such varieties must be infinitesimal, whilst a collector who endeavours to obtain them will probably be put to a great deal of trouble.

It is all very well for the privileged few—the possessors of first-class collections, which already comprise specimens of every known stamp, to add to them such insignificant small fry as I have referred to, but it is unfair in them to attempt, by public mention of these new discoveries, to make it incumbent on ordinary collectors to obtain them. Doubtless, every amateur has a right to use his own mind as to what he will admit into his album, but respectable collections are unduly depreciated when stamps showing trivial distinctions are made 'points of honour.' The goal is thus removed farther off than ever, and a philatelist who has bestowed much care and time in getting together specimens of all catalogued stamps, finds his collection still considered inferior because it does not contain a number of really unnecessary varieties.

English collectors, at present, as you remarked last month, do not care much for the distinctions of perforated and unperforated, though probably a great number admit both kinds—perhaps of necessity, because the two leading albums contain spaces for both; and as perforation is often accompanied by change of shade, and the appearance of the stamp is in any event altered—I may say, completed—it does not seem going too far to include both. Certainly such inclusions should form the most advanced point, and collectors should avoid the distinctions between different classes of perforation and of paper, as carefully as they already do, the generally worthless crew of essays and proofs.

As to the collection of *parcel* stamps, whether British or Danish, I can only say that the next step after including them, should be the admission of the labels on passengers' luggage. It would not be impossible to progress gradually from this point through the collection of labels and tickets of all kinds, to that of hand-bills, and, finally, of seven-foot posters. There would be an endless variety in the last-named,—the grotesque, the solemn, the lively, the graceful, the flaring; all these would form an interesting kind of study, which I beg to recommend to the French collectors, who are so intent on getting in the thin end of the wedge. Let them be in advance of their age.

Yours respectfully,
SENTINEL.

Weston-Super-Mare.

THE UN-ISSUED VENETIAN STAMPS.

To the Editor of 'THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—By the courtesy of the Viennese Minister of Finance, collectors can now place in their albums the un-issued stamps of Venetia. I refer to the 2, 3, and 15 soldi—head to right—of 1861. These have been erroneously considered to be no more than essays by some amateurs; whilst others have, with equal want of found-

dation, maintained that they, or some of them, were placed in circulation. 'Fentonia' speaks of these stamps at p. 124 of *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. iii., and apparently with a leaning towards the belief that the 3 and 15 soldi had been actually emitted, states that he had seen an entire set of adhesives 'identical with the envelopes of 1861, in a foreign collection, perforated.' At the same time, he starts the hypothesis that the 2 soldi yellow never existed, because 'the envelope series of 1861 included no such value.'

Now, the facts of the case are simply these. The Minister of Finance issued a decree on the 21st December, 1860, authorizing the emission of five values of the new type—viz., 2, 3, 5, 10, and 15 soldi. Of course, a stock of each value was prepared, but—as has been before stated—owing to the number of sheets of the 1858 issue, which remained in the offices, and which were not all used until the 1863 series appeared, only the 5 and 10 soldi of 1861 were required. The other denominations remained in store; and, in obedience to an order of the Austrian Minister, a certain number (I know not how many, but probably only a few) has been delivered to some influential collectors, and—as generally happens in such cases—some of these have got into the possession of one or two foreign dealers, by whom they are retailed at a high price. The stamps are in capital condition, undamaged by age; the paper of its original tint, and the colours as bright as when printed.

'Fentonia's' supposition as to the 2 soldi falls to the ground. It was indeed not well supported, for the contemporary Austrian adhesive series comprised a 2 soldi yellow, although that denomination was not represented among the envelopes. The 20, 25, 30, and 35 soldi adhesives, which he saw in the foreign collection, are rather mysterious. At the best they could only have been essays.

Yours respectfully,
Q. Q. Q.

Chester.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Tyro, Shoreham.—You cannot have a better catalogue than the new edition of Dr. Gray's, which we have just seen, and hope to review next month.

A. B. C.—The fourpenny rose Western Australia, included in some catalogues as a stamp, is, we believe, only a proof.—Our statement that one entire sheet containing 240 impressions was printed, we fear is incorrect. At any rate only two or three specimens are known to exist. The fourpenny vermilion, now obsolete, and the fourpenny carnine in present use, are the only two stamps of that value ever circulated. There is, however, a blue, and we must now add a rose proof. The sixpence oblong green is scarce—unused copies are seldom to be met with.

M. T.—The rarest stamps of the Spanish 1856 series are the 2 cuartos and the 1 real. These are difficult to obtain.—The 8 skil. small square Danish is still in use.—The 1 c. United States envelope has been obsolete nearly two years. It is only found printed on white paper; when in connection with the old 3 c. it forms a compound value.

G. W.—Your suggestion to reprint the early numbers of the magazine is a good one, but we fear it would not be a pecuniary success on the part of our publishers.

C. E. H. X. T.—So long since as February we gave a list of the Egyptian series, one of which you send for our inspection. The issue comprises seven stamps, viz., 5 paras light-slate green, 10 paras pale-brown, 20 paras azure, 1 piastre rose-lilac, 2 piastres yellow, 5 piastres rose, 10 piastres blue.

PLUTO.—We are not aware of the existence of any Italian stamp publication. There was at one time a journal published in Florence, but we believe it was long since discontinued. We are informed that a magazine has just been started at Trieste, but have not yet seen a copy, nor have we yet had the pleasure of perusing the Athenian *Mercury*.

T. C. G., Newnham.—We note your recommendation, and you will see we have acted on it in the present number.—We are unable to state the price of the French envelope essays. They are probably very expensive at present.

L. E., Liverpool.—The value of the Californian dollar is four shillings and twopenny, but the stamps to which we presume you refer—those of Wells, Fargo, & Co.—are obsolete, and have been reprinted, hence their sale below facial value.—The black-blue Mauritius is of the first issue.—The Austrian 3 kr., head to right, green, is included in all catalogues, and sold by all dealers at a low price.—For information as to the foundation of the Wells, Fargo, & Co. Express, we beg to refer you to the article concerning it in the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, No. 35.—The 3 gr. Bremen is still in use.—The Roumanian stamp of which you speak is evidently, from the inscription, a commercial one.—The 1-10 and 1-30 Hanover black, on yellow and rose, *fancy ground*, belong to the second issue.—The Trinidad slate, and the Mauritius magenta, are both rare, whether used or unused.

E. M. B., Tenbury.—The Austrian stamp is one of a series of receipts; the Tasmanian is also used principally for commercial purposes, though it is said to be sometimes employed to prepay the postage of heavy letters.

J. Y., Leicester.—*Herzogthum* means Duchy.—The 2½ rap. *Ortspost* was used for the German Cantons, and the 2½ r. *Poste Locale*, for the French Cantons.—The 3 cuartos Madrid was issued at the close of the year 1852, and the 1 cuarto on the 15th December, 1853. A 2 cuartos stamp of the same design was prepared and impressed in gold, but never issued, the 2 c. of the Spanish 1854 series taking its place.—The statement that the Philippine stamps are used to prepay the postage from Spain to the islands is incorrect, the reverse being the fact.—The 5 centavos New Granada, large rectangular, belongs to the 1861 issue.—We were in error in stating that a ½ groschen green, of the new type, had been issued for Brunswick; the old transverse oblong is still in use.—We should imagine English or Indian stamps were used in Labuan. We cannot say what are current in Heligoland.—A shilling English stamp, postmarked 'Buenos Ayres,' would be admissible as a curiosity on your B. A. page, just as the same stamp postmarked 'Malta' is placed by many collectors by the side of the Maltese halfpenny.

W. V. R., Heckmondwike.—Your stamp we believe to be an old revenue stamp of some kind—certainly not in any degree postal.

E. E. H.—The La Guaira stamps should be placed on the Venezuelan page.—Your Mexican stamps, with inscription *CORREOS MEXICO*, are forgeries.—It was impossible that the Fenian essay could come into use, except the ambitious plans of 'the happy family' had been successful.

IIIDALGO.—The 3 centavos of Mexico is identical in design with the other stamps of the 1864 issue. Its colour is a rich brown.—The hue of the 5 c. Vancouver's island is rather ineffective, being a kind of rose-red.—The colour of the twopenny Bermuda is sky-blue. In appearance it differs from the other stamps of the series in consequence of the value being in dark letters on a white label, whilst in the rest it is *vice versa*.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

BY AMATEUR.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—Of the first stamps of this island two series are commonly mentioned—the one scarlet, and the other lake or crimson. The difference of colour between these two is obvious at a glance, and no confusion can arise; but on a closer scrutiny of the scarlet series two very distinct shades of colour will be found. The one is a brilliant orange verging on red, and the other is a bright vermillion. Of the former or orange shade there appear to exist the 2d, 4d., and 6d., while of the vermillion all the values are found. Perhaps other values of the orange may be traced; we have not however seen them ourselves. Both varieties are subject to assume a brownish tint on exposure to the action of air.

We incline to reverse the order of issue assigned by Mount Brown to these stamps, and consider the orange as the oldest, next the vermillion, and the lake the last.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—Whatever be the intended device in the centre of the earliest issue of this colony, the stamp is evidently copied from the seal of the colony, bearing as it does on its face SIGILLUM NOV. CAMP. AUST.—The seal of New South Wales? It is to the colonial seal, therefore, attention must be directed. Our own view is that the device is an allegorical representation of the colony itself.

Our present intention is not to discuss any question of this kind, but to note some peculiarities of the stamps themselves. No doubt the varieties all proceed from the fact of the engraving of each stamp being a separate piece of handiwork—as in the case of the native-engraved Mauritius, the Philippine issues of 1854-55, and the laureated series of this very country. One apparent mode of distinguishing between these stamps, adopted by all the authors of catalogues, rests on the fact that the sky of some examples is unshaded, while in others lines representing clouds are found. It has been suggested that the absence of the lines is caused by imperfect printing, or the die being worn by use, or by both these causes conjointly. We are not disposed to adopt

this solution, nor to believe that this distinction is other than an unintentional difference similar to those above referred to, and proceeding from the same cause. In this conclusion we are strengthened by the fact that the very beautiful proof of the one penny, struck on yellowish paper, which discloses every minute portion of the die, and was taken with the greatest care, shows no trace of clouds. Further, we have recently met with an unsevered pair of the stamps, taken postmarked from a letter dated 1851. The right-hand stamp has the clouds, and the left has none; the impression of each is beautifully clear and distinct; the colour is deep-red; and no one can see them and attribute the discrepancy to careless printing. And the date of the use of these two stamps precludes the idea of the dies being then worn sufficiently to get rid of these lines. Another peculiarity of these stamps is worth referring to: some—the majority—are printed on a stout, thick-grained paper; these we take to be the earliest: others on a thinner yellowish paper which appears to be the latest used. The former paper usually is found where the stamps are vermillion in colour; in the latter case the shade has assumed a pinkish tone; intermediate we should place the carmine impressions. Paper of a blue tinge was used at times, and almost all varieties may be found on it. Laid paper of great substance and with coarse horizontal lines is also to be found; three different varieties of impression on laid paper are known to us.

The preceding remarks apply only to the one penny stamps. In the twopenny stamps nearly as great a variety of paper is met with. Laid paper was also used for these—the lines of the *verjure* being perpendicular, and not horizontal as in the case of the one penny. The colour of the specimens on laid paper is a bright light-blue.

The threepence is met with on bluish and on yellowish paper, besides the thick white commonly used. We have also discovered a copy on laid paper, similar to that employed for the one penny. Proofs in deep myrtle-green, on yellow toned paper, were also struck at the same time with the proofs of the one penny. No proofs of the

twopence were then taken, and we only know of one proof of the twopence blue with the spandrels quite unshaded, the die being incomplete, and two letters in the lower angles, as in the case of the first English stamps. This specimen is believed to be unique, and adorns the collection of Count Primoli of Paris.

SPAIN.—Ever and anon further research and inquiry disclose novelties where least expected, and our favourite pursuit has at least this charm to an attentive and accurate observer, that many an undiscovered fact awaits exhumation at the hands of a patient inquirer.

To-day we can chronicle what appears to be an error in the Spanish series of 1855: those printed on blue paper, with looped watermark top and bottom of the stamp. Of the series as issued there were 1 real blue, 2 reales lilac, besides other values.

In assorting a large number of the 1 real stamps recently received direct from Spain, a blue one, inscribed 2 REALES, was found; and after carefully comparing this with stamps of both 1 and 2 reales, it was evident that this specimen was printed from the die of the 2 reales; which differs in the pearl filling at the angles from that used for the 1 real. This specimen therefore was printed in the wrong coloured ink, probably in error: it is postmarked, and did duty most likely for a 1 real stamp according to its colour, and not according to its facial value.

At the moment, a precisely parallel case does not occur to us: the paper watermark with one value being used in printing other values (*e. g.*, for New South Wales and Victoria), is the nearest approximation we can think of to the curious error here noted.

TRINIDAD.—M. Moens, in his paper on the stamps of this isle, records a one penny, Britannia sitting, *petite dentelure*.

Undoubtedly this variety is to be met with; the perforation is small and of punctures merely: leaving an edge of rather ragged conformation. The general perforation is of small round holes, distinct and appreciable. Our attention has however been aroused by a third kind of perforation adopted, and we have met with it on the

sixpence green and fourpence purple-brown. It is formed of very small circular holes, wider apart than in the present ordinary perforation, but still distinct and defined: and therein differing from the one penny, *petite dentelure*, described by Moens.

We have also noticed a sixpence olive green, not perforated, postmarked 'Malta, August, 1859,' in the regular circular Maltese postmark. Can any of your readers elucidate this, or explain how a Trinidad stamp is obliterated by the Maltese postmark?

VICTORIA.—Threepence, bust (*pileuse*). A copy of this stamp, perforated *à la roulette*, has been discovered in an old collection, where it was not noticed as being thus perforated: in fact its possessor did not enter into the question of perforations at all.

It is postmarked with the 'parenthesis' mark of which Dr. Magnus speaks: and is a fine copy of the lighter or clearer blue.

STICKY-BACKS.

BY THE EDITOR.

THE signification of our title, or rather what we intend it to signify, will be apparent to our readers on perusal of this article. Writing in a secluded locality, to which the Prussians confine us semi-prisoner for the present, we have no Johnson or Walker at hand for reference, neither our landlady—although she is *Englisch* and lets *appartments*, as her signboard testifies—nor any other inhabitant possessing such a treasure; we cannot, therefore, vouch for its orthodoxy. We recommend to the next lexicographer, in accordance with the exigencies of the times, its insertion, or that of some kindred word, following the wise lead of the compilers of the *London Post-Office Directory*, who have recently elevated the postage-stamp dealers to a distinct compartment in their huge volume.

The necessity of a paste or gum-pot every time one wanted to affix postage stamps, would have proved a serious drawback to convenience, and materially diminished their employment, had not some ingenious individual thought of, or chanced upon, the ready-prepared method now in such constant use—not for postage alone, but trade labels

in general. His name we cannot meet with even in *Chambers* or *Household Words*, which useful publications seem to treat upon 'all things and some few others;' but the latter work supplies us with a history of the matter with which our own stamps are smeared, under the heading of the 'Great British Gum Secret.' This we epitomize for the benefit of those philatelists who may not have met therewith.

Favoured with admittance to the extensive establishment of Messrs. Bacon, Perkins, & Petch, the writer was shown, in the 'adhesive department,' several large barrels filled with a dark straw-coloured fine powder. This, he was informed, was the basis of the glutinous preparation applied to the reverse of postage labels. The composition of the same was a 'close secret.' The mystery was nevertheless in time unravelled, and the author proceeds with its explanation.

Advancing up the banks of the Liffey from Dublin, the traveller will find the water-power of that river has attracted speculators to establish manufactories there with more or less success, most usually the latter, as is generally the case with our unlucky sister-country. Paper-making, starch-making, cotton-spinning and weaving, with calico-bleaching and printing, have been successively attempted and abandoned. It seems the manufacture of starch has survived many disasters. The village of Chapelizod and hamlet of Palmerston, a name now long since ennobled, was the seat of a factory where this substance was made, and here by an extraordinary chance was invented, discovered—or, more correctly speaking perhaps, *created*—what is now termed British gum, so extensively used by calico-printers, stationers, postage-stamp-manufacturers, and in various industrial arts.

The vast quantities of potatoes required for starch-making possibly enhanced their price in the neighbourhood; at any rate, such was the belief among the enlightened *pisantry* of the district, who—following the ordinary Irish method of reasoning—frequently assailed the building and burnt the stores, by way of increasing the supply!

Something like five-and-forty years ago, on the 5th of September, 1821, George IV.,

returning from Ireland to England, embarked at Dunleary harbour, near Dublin; in honour of which event the place of embarkation was thenceforward dignified with the name of Kingstown.

The good citizens of the capital, after seeing off the king, sat up late toasting the admission of the harbour into the map of Ireland under its new appellation, when their merriment was disturbed by the cry of 'Fire.' The starch factory of Chapelizod was in flames. The stores, however, not being very combustible, were partially saved from destruction; but much of the starch, deluged with water, was washed away in streams ankle-deep, over the lanes and roadways, into the Liffey.

Next morning, one of the journeymen awoke with headache, parched throat, and other usual effects of strong potations after a general merrymaking. On trying to dress himself, he was astonished at finding coat, shirt, and trowsers so strangely glued together as to be almost inextricable. At last, with great pains and patience he contrived to don them, and, meeting with some of his mates, who had experienced a like phenomenon, they held a consultation, and rightly attributing the circumstance to the liquid starch in which they recollected rolling during their intoxication, discovered the fabrication of an article equal in quality to gum-arabic at a trifling fraction of its cost!

Had they means of working out their secret, they might have realized large fortunes, like many Lancashire firms did afterwards from the manufacture; but their ingenuity seldom profits the original inventor, and others reaped the fruit of this discovery. Half-a-dozen of them subscribed to send a deputy to Manchester for the disposal of their secret. He was unsuccessful, and another met with no better luck. All six then started off together. What they eventually obtained for the sale was never known. One of them shortly after died, two were imprisoned for rioting, the remaining three purchased a passage to New Orleans, where the climate soon carried them off.

The purchaser set up a small manufactory, and met with the utmost success, considering

the moderate number of assistants he thought it prudent to trust. It was a mystery to outsiders how he contrived to sell so good an article at such a low price! All sorts of stratagems were employed to get at the secret; excisemen examined his premises under pretext of searching for prohibited articles; his men were bribed; once burglars broke into his warehouse; another time his buildings were set on fire—but all in vain; till, at last, being sorely pressed by some calico-printers for a supply when he was ill, probably not having clear possession of his faculties, he got out of bed, went through the whole process in presence of their keen-eyed agent; and it is, perhaps, needless to add—that firm never obliged him again with an order.

Thence, by degrees, the clue was unravelled, and other factories of a similar nature established. When penny postage came into use, and gum-arabic was found too expensive for adhesion, British gum solved the difficulty, and Messrs. Bacon, Perkins, & Petch contracted for a supply—but we believe they now make it themselves. By some means rumour spread that it was composed of a deleterious substance, till the fact was blazoned far and wide that it was nothing more than potato-starch!

To the zealous amateur anything relative to the objects of his hobby is not devoid of interest. A few remarks, therefore, on the various kinds of adhesive matter employed in the fabrication of postage stamps may appear pertinent to the nature of our magazine. It might be imagined the same simple and inexpensive article would have been universally used, which is not the case. On the contrary, the gum, or its substitute, strikingly differs both in colour, nature, and, above all, in what ought to be the *sine quâ non*, its powers of adhesion. We proceed with a few observations on these three points of dissimilarity.

A very pure, transparent gum must be employed for the stamps of the French colonies, the delicate coloured papers used remaining of the same tint on the reverse after being smeared for adhesion. The same remark is applicable to those values of the mother-country which are on tinted paper,

to the Greek, or any other labels of Paris manufacture: while those impressed on white paper—as the Egyptian—are scarcely tinged by the gluten. With some noteworthy exceptions, this is the case with all stamps printed on coloured or tinted grounds—as the Romagna, Stati Parmensi, 6 c. and 9 c.; Poste Estensi of Modena, early Natsals, &c., &c. The most remarkable variations from this rule are some editions of the Danish colonials, whose backs are brown mottled. We beg the servant always carefully to avoid sweeping or throwing away any stray stamps; and asking one day if she had found any, was answered she had seen nothing about but some corn-plaster—this proved to be a small sheet of St. Thomas's! They are not universally so darkly coloured; we have some the same light-brown tint as the ground of the stamps.

The rare blue and magenta Guianas are also exceptional; the glazed face of the paper used being alone coloured, the backs are white; and the same reason prevails with most if not all the vermilion, blue, green, &c., North American private-office emissions.

The labels of St. Helena, Ceylon, and some few others, seemingly impressed on rather porous paper, the glutinous matter being tolerably transparent, are tinted on the reverse with a pale shade of the obverse; but, generally speaking, stamps on white paper have nearly colourless backs. The back of our own two lower values (of which more anon), the penny Antigua, St. Vincent's, and others, are what is called Isabella colour, a name which originated in the circumstance of a Spanish princess, who, having been shut up in a beleaguered city, swore not to change her dress till relief came. It was white, and some time elapsing, had become of the colour which thenceforth bore her name.

But the most strongly-marked exceptions, however, to this rule, are the two earlier emissions of Hanover, which, whether on white or tinted papers, are alike gummed with a substance more or less brownish pink or pinkish brown. We have seen this anomaly explained in some continental magazine, to which we have no means of reference at present, and cannot rely on our memory for quotation.

This variation in colour being simply dependent on circumstances of no moment, except, inasmuch, as it bears on the two succeeding points to be commented on, would be scarcely worth noticing; but the next—viz., the nature or component parts of the sticky-backs—is not so trivial as would at first glance appear, provided their adhesive properties were undeniable. The majority of our readers will remember the ancient riddle about ‘stick with a lick.’ We can aver for our own part we had as lief get ‘a lick with a stick,’ as stick some labels we could name ‘with a lick.’

The higher values of the English stamps, the French, and, in fact, nine-tenths of the whole family, are unexceptionable in the matter of taste, we mean flavour; those of Finland are peculiarly sweet; but the savour of our own penny and twopenny is villainous, and might justly have given rise to the report previously alluded to, of their being made adhesive by some deleterious matter. We cannot divest ourselves of the idea that the potato-starch originally employed for them was manufactured from specimens touched with the disease, and that their lineal descendants are yet components of the firm; the filthy taste remaining in the mouth after contact quite warranting the supposition.

We well remember, some few years back, at the time when the alarmist cry was raised, scagging a finger in drawing up a blind, and in the absence of plaster, applying some English postage-stamp outside to the wound. The pain during the night extended up to the shoulder, and continued part of the succeeding day. Whatever the cause might have been, the sensation was not fancied. But how unsavoury soever be our own natives, they are nectar and ambrosia compared with the current Newfoundlands. That we are not romancing (and we have every right to do so, after having been arrested yesterday, marched through a town under the escort of a file of soldiers, with a rabble of boys shouting to one another to come and see the spy hanged! and kept in durance vile for some hours), just let one of our readers take a taste of a Newfoundlander and say how he likes it.

The third and final point for comment, permanent power of adhesion, compels the humiliating confession that, while our own universal pennies, the pioneers of postal civilization, the venerable ancestors, or rather their modern representatives, of the myriads upon myriads of useful squares, oblongs, rounds, ovals, and triangles, rank only one degree higher than the beautiful Newfoundlands in the savoury scale, they must take the lowest place of all in what we have called the *sine quâ non* of adhesives, conjunctive properties. Not only is the quality of the gluten bad (as far as regards sticking capability it comes under the category of ‘*lucus a non*’), but it is sometimes so scantily applied as to necessitate the use of the gum-pot. If one may judge from the colour, the same substance is used for our twopenny, which, if possible, sinks to a yet lower depth than the penny: the Antigua, St. Vincent’s, St. Lucia, Grenada, and one or two other colonials, share the same defect. We never remember receiving any letters from the islands just mentioned that retained their due complement of stamps. Some had been either picked off on purpose, or rubbed off by contact with other letters in the bag, either of which haps their non-adhesive nature renders quite easy. The current Nova Scotias, New Brunswicks, and Newfoundlands partake of the same defect in a slighter degree.

Except the various emissions of 1 cent and 2 cents (numerals) of the Sandwich Islands, and the obsolete Shanghai issue, we do not call to mind any utilized postage label not professedly gummed, unless the blue fourpenny of Western Australia be included; but this stamp, we believe, existed in reality only as an essay, although we know some few of them were employed and passed the post. Essays, and proofs in general, and a minority of forgeries, are not gummed; though a few specimens of the first are, and a greater proportion of the second, to increase the illusion of their having been in circulation, and enhance their value; and, from a similar honourable motive, an overwhelming majority of the last.

We wish our humble remarks on the anti-glutinous peculiarities of the blue and

red British may meet the eye of some able and willing controlling authority. Our higher values, in common with the French, Belgian, and all the European, East Indian, South American, and most African and Australian stamps, require no improvement in this most important quality.

Close let the useful stamp adhere ;
Through distant earth and ocean steer,
Till reaching safe the destined land,
It finds the right receiver's hand ;
Then, fill its secondary stage, }
To ornament an album's page, }
And meet a dignified old age. }

THE STAMPS OF TRINIDAD.

THE information contained in the present article is derived principally from M. Moens's *Timbre-Poste*, interspersed here and there with observations resulting from our own experience.

The island of Trinidad (Spanish for Trinity), which the French have literally translated by calling it *La Trinité* (discovered by Columbus in 1498, colonized by Spaniards in 1588, and, after various vicissitudes, permanently secured to Great Britain by the peace of Amiens, in 1802), is an island of the greatest importance, not only on account of its extent and fertility, but because of its central position among the British possessions in the West Indies.

Stamps were introduced by an order from the governor, issued April 4th, 1851. They were at first intended for the island of Trinidad only, nor do we know the exact period at which they were adopted for foreign postage. Persons were appointed by the same order to sell these stamps at five per cent. commission. At present the commission is seven-and-a-half per cent., and 10 per cent. to those who keep a receiving-house or branch post-office. Five per cent. discount is also allowed to all purchasers of ten pounds worth of stamps.

TYPE 1ST.—Britannia seated, a spear in her right hand, her left arm resting on a shield, on which the British naval ensign—the Union Jack—may faintly be distinguished. To the left some bales of merchandise, to the right a ship in full sail. Beneath, TRINIDAD, in white letters on coloured ground, no value indicated. The whole design is

similar to that on the Barbados stamps, including the pair of stars on Britannia's helmet. The background is formed by a lace-work pattern, divided by two perpendicular zig-zag or vandyke lines. In clear specimens it may be observed that this zig-zag is made up of minute diamond-shaped dots. In later issues, of which we shall speak presently, the colour appears sometimes to have been laid on so thick as almost to obscure all vestige of pattern. But, to return to the first type—this in 1851 appeared on blue-tinted paper, caused, as we are now informed, by some ingredient in the adhesive preparation; and subsequently, in 1854 (?), on white paper, which is frequently found of a dingy hue, owing doubtless to the glue-coloured cement with which they were backed.

1851, ON BLUISH PAPER.

Brick-red, brown-red, red-lilac, deep-blue, brown-slate, grey-slate.

1854 (?) ON WHITE PAPER.

Carmine-red, brick-red, blackish-violet, bright-blue, deep-blue, brown-slate.

DENTICULATED ON WHITE PAPER.

January, 1863, red, small denticulations.

Ditto large denticulations.
End of 1863, brown-red, ditto.

The difference in the size of the denticulations is perceptible at first sight.

The value of the red stamp has, we are told, always been a penny; we are not certain with regard to the rest, but, judging from analogy with the present issue, we would name fourpence as the value of the violet; sixpence that of the blue; and one shilling that of the slate. We have seen a dark green one of this type, and it is catalogued by Dr. Gray in his second edition, but omitted in his last; query, whether it be not a chemical transmutation of the blue? Each of these values, be it observed, are in use at the present day.

TYPE 2ND, 1856 (?).—The stock of stamps happening to be exhausted, and the supply expected from England being delayed, a French engraver was employed to copy the type then in use—which, however, he did not exactly do, but greatly simplified the details, retaining nevertheless the general

design. The necessity for this hurried lithograph has furnished one of the rarest of the Trinidad series, commonly called 'the native die.' The background is a diaper pattern, resembling, but smaller and less regular than, that on the Zurich stamps. Four straight lines constitute the border instead of the usual intricate scallops, while the corner stars have only four points instead of the former eight-rayed device. There are also a few minor differences.

Bright-blue. Pale-blue.

TYPE 3RD, 1858 (?).—We are again indebted to a delay in the reception of regular supplies from England, for the ugliest and worst-executed (not excepting New Caledonia) of all known stamps. This time three stamps were destined to meet the deficiency, varying only in colour. We have been accustomed hitherto to suppose that they were xylographed, but we are now told that they also were lithographed; not from an original drawing on stone, but from a transfer from the former provisional stamp.

Bright-red, pale-vermilion, value one penny.

Blue, value sixpence.

Grey, value one shilling.

Our learned Belgian authority admits only two values, considering the grey as a variety of the blue, resulting from the worn-out stone being unable to take sufficient colour to produce the desired tint. But we have always regarded the grey as a substitute for the slate, whatever its value might have been.

TYPE 4TH, 1859.—We have here the first set of stamps having the value indicated in the space hitherto occupied by the name of the island, the word TRINIDAD being promoted to a curve at the top of the rectangle; on white paper.

Fourpence neutral.

Sixpence forest-green.

One shilling blue-black.

SIMILAR SERIES, WITH FINE DENTICULATIONS,
JANUARY, 1863.

Fourpence dull-violet.

Sixpence dark-green.

One shilling blue-slate.

The following, issued May, 1863 (? 1865),

are watermarked with the letters c. c. and crown. The denticulations are coarser.

Fourpence pale-mauve.

Sixpence light-green.

One shilling bright-mauve.

These three, with the brown-red, issued at the close of 1863, which, we believe, has not yet appeared with the watermark, are the current issue.

There are four different obliterating marks found on the Trinidad stamps; but, as we are unable at present to assign to them their respective dates, we forbear attempting to describe them.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

We commence our article on novelties for the present month with the pair of types representing, with more or less variation, the newly-issued Brazilian, that have been expected for upwards of a year. We had hoped, when introducing these stamps to the notice of our readers last month, to have been able to inform them of whom the profile



on the 20 and the 200 reis was a representation, but we regret to find ourselves unable to do so. The Parisian journals consider it to be the portrait of the emperor, notwithstanding the manifest difference in appearance between it and the full-face likeness on the other five stamps of the series. By dint of great success in 'making believe,' it is possible to detect some faint resemblance between the faces on the two types, but it is far more probable that the finely-engraved head on the 200 reis is that of some Brazilian patriot.



In adopting the engine-turned pattern for the two stamps bearing the unknown portrait, the American Bank-Note Company have

trenched, in some degree, on the style hitherto peculiar to its rival the National, and with great success. The exquisite 'engine-work' shows to perfection on the 200 reis, and contributes much to the excellence of its congener, the lilac, which is also distinguished by a somewhat eccentric design. The device of the

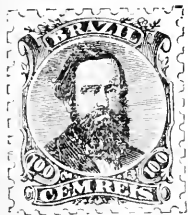
cincoenta reis, which, except the black, may be pronounced the most-effectively engraved, in like manner appears to have been suggested by that of the old 5 c. and 24 c. of the United States, as will be apparent on comparison.

The colour of the latter is a full rich blue. The hues of the 20 and 80 reis are, as stated last month, lilac. It seems a pity that some unrepresented colour had not been chosen for one of them, but the lovers of variety

must be thankful that the whole series is not, like the first two issues, printed in the self-same ink.

The framework of this new emission lacks somewhat of the flowing grace we have been accustomed to admire

in the productions of the American Bank-Note Company, but the portrait of the emperor is beyond all praise, and we may say, also, beyond imitation. Our engraver has copied the details of the various patterns accurately, but it was impossible to reproduce faithfully the life-like representation of the Brazilian emperor, which is excellent simply as a work of art.



Youthful philatelists will be interested to note how the relationship of languages is exemplified by the resemblance between words denoting numerals in different tongues. Thus, on these Brazilian stamps, whose denominations are in

Portuguese, the Spanish *diez* (10) becomes *dez*; the Italian *venti* (20) changes to *vinte*; *cinquenta* (50) to *cincoenta*; *oitenta* (80) to *oiteenta*, and so on.

PERU.—The far-west production of Peru, fully described in our last number, is the engraving represented; and if we may be allowed to modify the remarks previously made thereon, we would pronounce it peculiarly attractive, except in the dull green hue, which it shares with the 100 reis of Brazil. There is such a multiplicity of profiles and full faces among postal emanations, that we confess to a prejudice in favour of any allegorical or armorial device, such as the one before us. In our description of this stamp last month, we assumed that the animals represented were both llamas; whether, however, they *are* both entitled to the name, we must leave to naturalists to decide, merely suggesting that they *may* belong to the kindred tribes of vicuñas or alpacas. It is worthy of note, whilst speaking of Peru, that the stamps of the old embossed issue were, by a peculiar process, printed on endless strips of paper, so that it was possible to obtain them by the yard!

PORTUGAL.—From Peru to Portugal is a great leap, and not less from the American Bank-Note Company to Mons. C. Wiener, who was entrusted with the designing of a new series for the little peninsular kingdom, the first individual of which has just appeared, and



is represented in the annexed cut. Doubtless a change in the postal tariff is the principal cause of this emission, as there are three new values besides the above. The set will comprise the following denominations:—5, 10, 20, 25, 50, 80, 100, 120, and 240 reis, the colours we are as yet unable to give, except that of the 120 reis, which is a rich blue. The portrait, which is in relief, is that of the present king, Don Luis, who, since the last series was emitted, has grown into manhood, and, if he be correctly represented, is possessed of a pleasant countenance.

It will be observed that the new series is the first to bear the name of its country, and also that at the base of the profile appear the initials of the afore-mentioned engraver—Mons. C. Wiener. The stamps are unperforated, and printed on strong, white, unwatermarked paper, well gummed, and with a space of about a quarter of an inch between each.

NORWAY.—The first Norwegian local mails from the important town of Throndhjem—or, as we render it in English, Drontheim. It is not very attractive either in device or colour—the latter being brown, and



the former consisting of the proprietor's initials, G. F. K. (*G. F. Krogh*), in a beaded oval, with inscribed labels above and below. The impression is a lithographed one on white paper, unper-

forated; its value, 1 skilling; its use, to frank letters and packets.

FINLAND.—Another issue of Northern Europe, chronicled in our last month's paper on new emissions, and fully described in the correspondence department, forms the eleventh illustration, and is peculiarly noticeable by its deep azure bar.



SAXONY.—The (fieldpost) envelope, of which we spoke in our last number, turns out to have been fabricated for the use of the civilians, not the soldiers. The following illustration represents the most ornamental part of this unique emission; beneath it are

ruled spaces for the insertion of the name and address of the trooper for whom the

FELD-POST portofrei.



letter enclosed might be intended. We hope to give further particulars concerning this interesting war product next month.

HAITI.—Our sable friends and brethren have presented us with the annexed rather meagre design, which will, we presume, supersede the still more primitive 1 real which appeared in the early part of the present year. The aspiring republicans have adopted the respectable motto DIOS, PATRIA, LIBERTAD, and have used it to fill the upper scroll in the device of their new emission, leaving the lower blank; perhaps because the engraver did not think it worth while to add the name of such a well-known country as Haiti.



ECUADOR.—From this republic, a shade more important than that of Haiti, comes a novelty, in the shape of a 4 reales stamp, of which we give an illustration. On comparing it with the engraving of the Mexican essay in the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for July, 1865, the reader will observe that the border pattern of the Ecuador is almost identical with that of the



Mexican, though the execution of the former forbids the supposition that it emanated from the same engravers. It is, in fact, a coarse imitation; the colour is pale-red, the paper white and undentilated. That it is genuine there is no reason to doubt, specimens properly postmarked having been received from the country.

SPAIN.—The emission of a new Spanish stamp in the middle of a year is a rare occurrence. We have now, however, to chronicle the appearance of a 20 centesimos lilac, printed on white paper and denticulated. The device is identical with that now current in the colonies, which again is a reproduction of the 1864 type, with the addition of the date of the current year, and the alteration of the value from *cuartos* to *centimos* or *centesimos*. It is stated that the new stamp will take the place of the lilac 20 c. *d'escudo* emitted in January last, the government having discovered that the latter is being counterfeited.

A DISH OF TRAVEL SEASONED WITH POSTAGE STAMPS.

BY THE EDITOR.

COMMENCING a tour through North and South Germany last summer, by way of Holland, our readers may take it for granted we made every possible quest in that country, in hopes either of meeting with used or unused specimens of the quasi-Dutch Guiana stamp, or at least obtaining some satisfactory information thereanent. Strange to say, we could not meet with any individual collector or non-collector who had ever seen it, some even had never heard of it! Of all the pestilent tribe of commissionaires, we found those of the Hague and Amsterdam the most pertinacious and abusive; had we remained in the country long enough, we might have employed one as a detective for the discovery of one of these rarities, which would have been an excellent field for the display of his persevering importunity. A few hours in Haarlem proved quite a treat, no beggar being ever seen there. Whether disallowed admittance, or treated so well that they speedily lose the mendicant character, the effect is equally agreeable. Here, and throughout the greater part of Germany, we found cancelled stamps in much greater demand than undisfigured ones; but our surprise diminished on further progress.

In the towns of Hanover and Brunswick, for example, sheets of unused varieties figured in many a shop window; but out of

several thousands we did not see one single veritable specimen. No wonder the wary Dutch and Germans are chary of anything unverified by a legitimate postmark. Switzerland and Hamburg share the credit of this iniquitous traffic.

We had addresses for Berlin, and hoped to inspect a good collection there, but the party to whom it belonged was from home, and the advertising dealer was not to be met with. We may take this opportunity of remarking, with respect to these gentlemen—and we do it here because Berlin is *not* the capital to which we particularly allude—that they seldom *are* accessible to a personal interview. In one place, we had seven advertised addresses, and, though we called twice or thrice at each, could never get admission. The inference is self-evident. Once the servant said her master was in; but, being reconnoitred, we were doubtless taken for one of his English creditors, and a message was sent that the servant had mistaken.

At Leipzig, we were surprised at finding the 10 s. g. green envelope still in use, notwithstanding the issue of the then novel series with arms. At the table d'hôte, in that incomparably situated Hotel de Belle Vue, at Dresden, we met an American, who was unpatriotic enough to award the palm of excellence to the European hotels in general, and the English in particular, on the score of civility and attention, which the independent transatlantic waiters are too independent to afford. Here also we were treated to an anecdote which we shrewdly suspect was made for the occasion, having read its pendant before as applied to another object of vertu. A philatelist, long boasting of a supposed unique copy of some long obsolete issue, was shown a similar specimen by some other lucky collector. He immediately offered to purchase it, and eventually succeeded for a fabulous consideration. Possession given, he immediately tore it in pieces, complacently exclaiming, 'Now mine is unique again!' *Se non è vero è ben trovato*.

We are penning this in full view of Ehrenbreitstein, but with all the prestige of its lordly presence, we cannot help preferring the equally strong, but surpassingly ro-

mantic and picturesque fort of Königstein on the Elbe, up which we steamed on our way to the heart of one of the loveliest of earth's spots, Saxon Switzerland. The windows of the upper stories of the houses all through this beautiful district—and the same singularity is observable in a great part of Bohemia—are fashioned in shape and appearance like the human eye, or, not unforgetful of the promised *seasoning*, like Carricr's red and blue one-cent U.S. private office. Four or five days sojourn in this enchanting locality, is well worth the time and expense of getting there. It is Switzerland with its inhabitants dévoid of rapacity, and its rocks and hills of danger. Shoes seem almost, and stockings quite, a superfluity, but no one thinks of passing you without a friendly salutation. The trouble of ascending the steep paths is amply compensated by the feast of wild strawberries, raspberries, and dewberries, *en route*, the iced beer on the mountain cabarets, and the unrivalled prospects from such spots as the Bastei, the Kuhstall, the Winterberg, and the Prebischthor.

Our first experience of Bohemia was a ramble of two hours in one of its enormous forests, to the great delight of a young companion, who was anticipating our being obliged to pass the night there, and at last arriving within a stone's throw of the central spot whence we had started. After this, a five miles' walk carried us home to Tetschen. Next day to Töplitz, *fide* Murray, the resort of kings and emperors. If any celebrities were there, they looked terribly out at elbows. Prince Clary's band honoured our English composer, Balfe, by playing his *Bohemian Girl*. In the early days of stamp collecting, we remember it was the custom to class the small head Austrians apart as Bohemian stamps, and some of the then choicest albums had a page so labelled. We imagine the correspondence between that country and others being more limited than from other parts of the empire, the original stock lasted some time after the issue of larger heads. Every thing in Prague seems on a large scale, the enormous Hradschin, the broad Moldau, the noble bridges, and the labyrinthal post-office, from which, once

entered, it is almost hopeless to get out undirected; and letters being posted and stamps bought in a department far removed from the Poste Restante, one's exit is invariably made so far from one's entrance, that all trace of locality is obliterated from recollection.

Prague has more the appearance of an Italian than a German town, in some of the older portions particularly, and the illusion is enhanced on hearing the common people talk; their language, though barbarously uncouth to look at in print, apparently all consonants, is as soft as Italian to the ear, and especially musical after the harsh German. We had thought the broad inequilateral triangle shape peculiar to the green Newfoundland and original Capes; but our young companion brought us a pair of (apparently) official adhesives, one torn, the other quite perfect, exactly the size and form of the above-mentioned stamps, bearing the Austran eagle within an ornamental border, no value designated. Notwithstanding the locality whence he obtained them, from old newspapers—as the Roman emperor, Vespasian, remarked, '*Non olet*'—the perfect specimen now varies our collection.

(To be continued).

THE STAMPS OF NATAL.

BY THE AUTHOR OF 'THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF BRITISH GUIANA.'

(Continued from page 11).

WE are pleased to see that the paper which appeared recently in our pages on the early issue of this colony has met with so much favour in France, that no less an authority than Dr. Magnus has translated and embodied its entire contents into an article of his own in *Le Timbrophile* of July 15. He has handsomely acknowledged the source whence he derived that portion of his paper, and we are at all times happy to be thus the medium of conveying information to foreign philatelists; the international exchanges of knowledge in such a manner cannot fail to be both useful and beneficial to the readers of each journal.

The object now in view is to resume

our remarks, and complete the information down to the present series. In passing, we notice Dr. Magnus adopts the authority of M. Rondot, in the *Magasin Pittoresque*, and dates the first issue of stamps as 1857, quoting a decree of May 21 of that year. The date we gave was founded on a letter from a friend at Natal; but we prefer the date of the decree to any statement from a private source.

Next, since our paper, we have met with a perfect unused copy of the shilling with full margin, and the old gum intact at the back. The colour of this specimen is somewhat lighter in shade than the usual tint; the latter is a nankin, the one we refer to is a creamy yellow.

The reprints we alluded to have recently been most carefully compared against genuine stamps, and we feel convinced they are impressions from the genuine dies; although in colour, texture of paper, and general appearance, the differences are so great that a mere tyro ought not to be deceived.

SECOND ISSUE.

1860-1.—Upright rectangular stamp, with three-quarter bust of Queen Victoria in an oval frame, the groundwork of the stamp filled up with an engine-turned wavy pattern. The Queen wears a diadem, necklace, and earrings; the portrait is very similar to that adopted in the stamps of Bahama and Grenada; NATAL above, value in letters at foot.

The colours of this series have not been altered, except in the sixpence.

- One penny, red.
- Threepence, blue.
- Sixpence, grey, brown.
- Sixpence, lilac.

Different shades of colour, of course, are met with; but the chief distinctions are to be found in the papers adopted for the different issues.

A. 1860-1.—Paper watermarked with a six-rayed star.

- One penny, red, } perforated.
- One penny, carmine, }
- Threepence, blue, not perforated.

Two varieties of the star watermark in this value exist—one like that used for

the penny, the other a larger clumsy star, quite out of shape; probably both these latter were proofs.

The threepence blue perforated of this series also is stated to exist by Dr. Magnus, but we have never met with either this or the sixpence on this paper, nor heard of the latter on reliable authority; our own belief is that the threepence does not exist; for we have an official specimen of the threepence as issued now before us; it is perforated, but on *plain* paper, *without watermark*, and is marked CANCELLED with the mark adopted for official specimens. We think this was the earliest threepence issued for circulation, and come therefore to the conclusion that the threepence, star watermark, never was in actual use.

B. 1862-4.—Plain paper; texture thin; perforated.

- One penny, carmine, deep-red.
- Threepence, blue, deep-blue.
- Sixpence, grey-brown of various shades of intensity.

The differences of colour are probably not designed differences.

C. 1865.—Paper watermarked C C beneath a crown; perforated.

- One penny, red.
- Sixpence, bright-lilac.

We also possess a one penny of this issue not perforated; most likely a trial of the die on the new kind of paper. The issue of the threepence will complete the series.

The whole of these stamps were engraved and are printed in London, for the agents to the Crown Colonies, by Messrs. De la Rue & Co.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Illustrated Catalogue of Postage Stamps.

By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., F.L.S., V.P.Z.S., ETC., of the British Museum. Fourth Edition. London: E. Marlborough & Co. Bath: Alfred Smith & Co.

THE publishers may be congratulated on the completion, and English collectors on the appearance, of the fourth edition of this well-known work, which now takes the first place amongst British catalogues, by reason

of its accuracy, completeness, and general excellency. Great care has evidently been taken with the preparation of this work, and successful efforts have been made to bring it up to the level of current philatelic knowledge in every respect.

The arrangement of the catalogue has been improved by the adoption of the now-popular plan of division by continents, and placing the countries within those divisions in alphabetical order. This plan, whilst perhaps less instructive than the purely geographical one of grouping contiguous countries, permits of readier reference,—an object of great importance in all catalogues. To further this object several minor improvements have been made; such as giving greater prominence to dates (which we may say, *en passant*, appear to have been carefully verified), separating envelopes from adhesives, and the descriptions from the list of stamps to which they refer.

The magnified representation of our shilling stamp, which adorned the cover of the third edition, appears *obliterated* on the new arrival, with the inscription in red, 'Fourth Edition,' and the increased price. This novel mode of alteration is in keeping with the nature of the book, but it is a matter of opinion whether the engraving is beautified by it or not.

The increased price to which we have referred, is caused by the increased matter. The book has been enlarged from 96 to 180 pages, and more than a hundred additional engravings have been inserted. Room has been made not only for the multifarious new emissions since the appearance of the last edition, but also for the entire body of local stamps which are introduced by the learned doctor, with some well-chosen remarks. The list of essays has also been made as complete as possible, and an addenda, bringing up the catalogue to the latest moment, concludes the book. Concise notes, elucidative of doubtful points, are appended to many of the descriptions, and serve to add to the interest.

We observed a slight error in one of these notes, in connection with the United States engraving companies, the 'American' getting the credit of manufacturing the United States

stamps, which is really due to the 'National.' We have also observed (for we must endeavour to find a few faults) that only one series of the Montevidean oblong stamps with Roman inscription is described. In fact there are two, as stated in a recent article in this magazine; one with the inscription in larger letters than the other. In the description of the St. Lucia again, although both shades of the obsolete colours are given, they are all included under one date—1859; whereas the lighter series was not emitted until 1863. The list of Greek stamps does not include the 10 lepta orange on blue paper, nor the 40 lepta rose; and, on the other hand, the Argentine descriptions comprise the mythical series to which we referred some months since.

These errors, however, only serve to show the impossibility of attaining perfect accuracy. The detraction thereby from the value of the book is extremely slight, and not likely to delay the demand for another edition by a single day.

Cassell's Illustrated Family Paper. London : Cassell, Petter, & Galpin.

A SERIES of articles on postage stamps is now appearing in this excellent paper. They form a continuation of some which were published a few years since, and are copiously illustrated. The information they contain is however very fragmentary, and it is evident that the writer has not made use of the advantages which accrue to a student of stamps in the present day. No attempt is made to give a complete list of the stamps issued by any country, the references being indeed desultory, and the statements in many cases incorrect. We deem it our duty to point these out, as otherwise they may on many points mislead collectors.

We find it stated that the first issue of stamps in Mauritius took place in 1846, and consisted of the English-printed series (no value indicated), which were really emitted in 1859. The wood-block Mauritius, which are represented as being the second issue, are stated to have been emitted in 1858, the fact being that they were in use in 1856.

Again, the set of stamps current in Cuba and Luzon in 1855 are said not to have been issued for Luzon until 1864, and then only for the purpose of prepaying letters to that colony; and it is added that the current *Cents. P^o. F^o.* series, emitted in 1865, is intended for the same service.

No mention is made of the issues for Spain of 1865 and 1866, nor is any notice taken of the three provisional St. Helenas. The French colonial 20 c. and 80 c. are likewise ignored, and it is erroneously stated that the other stamps of the series are in use in Algeria, where in fact the home stamps are employed.

On the other hand, the writer mentions some stamps which are not named in any album or catalogue extant. Foremost amongst these is a mythical Tahitian stamp, consisting of the name OTAHEITE, two other words illegibly printed, and what appears from the engraving to be '7 NATUS'; all in large rectangular frame composed of a single line. The last-named incomprehensible word is said to be the denomination of value. It is also stated that the writer is indebted to the courtesy of 'a celebrated French collector' for the specimen from which the engraving is taken. 'This stamp is said to have been for some time current in the colony, and is very rare;'—we ourselves have not yet seen a copy.

Besides the Oceanic stranger, we are introduced to a hitherto unheard-of Madrid stamp, which contains the usual bear in tree in the centre, surmounted by crown, and encircled by a wreath and by the inscription CABILDO DE ESCRIBANOS DEL NUMERO DE MADRID; outside of this is another wreath, and a double-lined circle, with a scroll above marked PARA, and another below inscribed EX—DE—DE 18, complete the stamp, which is altogether about 2 in. by 1½ in., and is stated to be used 'for the transmission of despatches within the city of Madrid.'

The set of Italian essays of values corresponding with those of the 1863 issue is mistaken by the writer of the article under notice for another series of stamps; though, as he truly remarks, 'with what object they were prepared does not clearly appear; at least they have not yet been circulated by the

government'—the originators, we may add, having saved the government the trouble.

Two or three other Italian essays which the writer notices are quite new to us; in particular one with the head of Mars. But we cannot now go into further details, and must conclude our remarks with an expression of regret that so fertile a subject has not been more fully and carefully treated of in so popular a periodical.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

THE USE OF POSTAGE STAMPS in the colony of New South Wales commenced on the 27th of December, 1849. —*Cassell's Paper.*

A FRENCH POSTAL BUREAU has been established at Shanghai since 1863. The 80 c. French stamp prepays the single rate of postage for transmission of letters to the mother country.—*Cassell's Paper.*

SUBSTITUTES FOR GUM.—Two more candidates for the office of gum have been recommended to the notice of our readers, by correspondents. The first, *coaguline*, is perfectly colourless, and, therefore, will neither disfigure the stamps it fixes, nor the album; it is ready for use when warmed, like gelatine, and a very small quantity suffices. This compound can be obtained in sixpenny bottles from the maker, Mr. S. Ray, Chemist, Stockport. The second candidate, *coll en batons*, is a French product, very different from the stick-glue of English bazaars. Its supporter testifies to having found it answer perfectly for fixing stamps firmly; whilst, on the other hand, they can be removed from the album, if necessary, by the use of a little water without injury.

UNITED STATES LOCALS.—The great majority of the United States locals were issued by private persons, who endeavoured to compete with the government by a cheaper rate of carriage or delivery; some of them were used to prepay the conveyance of letters from the districts of a city to the central post-office. Nearly all are now obsolete, original specimens are rare; but reprints are obtainable without difficulty. Within the last two years there have been numerous reported discoveries of plates, from which long-forgotten locals were printed; but there is little doubt that many dishonest fabrications have been offered for sale as reprint impressions from such plates. Similar productions, announced as newly-issued and current stamps, are also from time to time sought to be imposed on the public.—*Gray's Catalogue, Fourth Edition.*

THE GAUCHO OR COURIER STAMPS.—A correspondent has lately been favoured with the sight of a complete set of Buenos Ayres 'courier' stamps, received from a reliable friend resident in that country, who informed him that they were, as is generally understood, in use but a very short time, and are of extreme rarity even at Buenos Ayres. He thus describes them:—the rising sun appears to the left exactly in the same position as in the ship series, but much better executed. The horse's right, or off foot breaks the inner line of the oblong oval frame. In all other respects our engraving (vol. ii., p. 185) gives a faithful delineation of the originals, which, as regards design, are all alike, varying only in colour. The 4 reales is, as described by Dr. Gray, a golden-yellow; 6 reales, a bright grass-green; 8 reales, a dark bluish-violet (there is no stamp in existence which exactly resembles this in colour); and the 10 reales, a deep rich-blue, very like the tint in which the 120 centesimos Montevideo is usually printed.

BONA-FIDE ESSAYS.—Amongst *bona-fide* productions may be classed the stamps proposed by Mr. Whiting and others, when the question of cheap postage was first agitated in this country; most of the Italian essays, though these have been reproduced since their rejection on a variety of coloured papers and in a great number of tints; the Belgian essays (with one exception), which were forwarded in competition for a prize of 5,000 fr. offered by the Minister of Public Works for the best design for a new issue of stamps; the Egyptian essay, which was proposed with a view to its adoption when the issue which has lately appeared was first contemplated; the Wurtemberg envelope essays, the work of the government engraver; the Danish essays, of I believe similar origin; those proposed by the American Bank-Note Company as the type for new United States stamps; and possibly those of the French empire. The Parma 25 c. essay, identical in design with the provisional issue, is likewise entitled to be considered genuine, as are those of Canada and Nova Scotia.—*Gray's Catalogue, Fourth Edition.*

OLD LETTERS.—Be sure never to burn or destroy kind letters. It is as pleasant to read them over when the ink is brown, the paper yellow with age, and the hands that traced the friendly words lie folded over the hearts that prompted them, under the green sward. Above all, never burn love letters. To read them in after years is like a resurrection of one's youth. The elderly spinster finds in the impassioned offer she foolishly rejected twenty years ago a fountain of rejuvenescence. Glancing over it she realizes that she was once a belle and a beauty, and beholds her former self in a mirror much more congenial to her taste than the one that confronts her in her dressing-room. 'The widow indeed' derives a sweet and solemn consolation from the letters of the beloved one, who has journeyed before her to the far-off land, from which there comes no messages, and where she hopes one day to join him. No photograph can so vividly recall to the memory of a mother the tenderness and devotion of the children who have left her at the call of Heaven as the epistolating outpourings of their filial love. The letter of a true son or daughter to a mother is something better than an image of the features; it is the reflex of the writer's soul. Keep all loving letters, burn only the harsh and cruel ones, and, in burning, forget and forgive them.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE IMPRINT ON AMERICAN GREENBACKS.

To the Editor of 'THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your inquiry in the July number of the magazine as to the explanation of the fact of the United States five-dollar bills bearing the imprint of both the National and the American Bank Note Companies, I would state that the government, the better to prevent the counterfeiting of its notes, caused certain portions of the plates to be engraved by different engravers.

The imprint of the American Bank-Note Company and the National Company will, in like manner, be found on sundry issues of the National Bank notes.

The imprint of the American will also be found on those valuable instruments—the Fenian bonds.

Very respectfully yours,

S. ALLAN TAYLOR.

Boston, U. S.

LUGGAGE—PER POST.

To the Editor of 'THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—Allow me to differ from your correspondent 'Sentinel,' in his estimate of the value of parcel stamps. In some parts of the continent—I can speak for Austria and Switzerland—if a traveller wishes to send his luggage separately from himself, that is, to meet him at some other point on his route, he sends it, not as we should do here, through the railway-office, or the coach, or the common carrier, but through the post-office. I have done so in both the above-named countries, and I have the Austrian stamp postmarked Feldkirch, July 21, 1864. A letter has to accompany the luggage, and my impression is that a stamp was put on both portmanteau and letter, but I do not recollect precisely. I think my stamp must have been on my luggage, as I do not think the letter came into my possession at all. I send you a stamp exactly like the one used, but not the actual individual.*

I am, &c.,

M. E.

Liverpool.

* [The stamp sent is an Austrian bill stamp, totally unconnected with postal purposes.—ED.]

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I cannot allow a 'Sentinel' to challenge enthusiastic and scientific students of postage stamps without having a shot or two at his remarks. If a few of our French neighbours are becoming ridiculous, as he hints, even to frivolity, in their researches after minute varieties, her Majesty's subjects need not be guided by their example. But 'Sentinel' evidently expects every one to take the *via media*—a road, I believe, to be found only in the island of Utopia, the latitude and longitude of which has never yet been accurately made known. If he prefers selecting his stamps by their faces only, by all means let him do so. We of the French school prefer and think it both useful and advisable to inspect their backs, their edges, and their hue, before we can feel satisfied to classify them properly. There is as much difference between our mode of pursuing our investigations and his (as far as I comprehend his views), as there is between a botanist and a horticulturist. We are the botanists of philately; we go deeply into the matter (albeit 'Sentinel' may perhaps think us very shallow), we study the peculiarities of stamps, their history, their date, their formation, and their usual term of existence; whether annuals like the Spanish and Granadines, or perennials like the English and Russians. He, and his supporters are, on the other hand, the horticulturists of philately. So that the stamps look pretty, and form a nice row in the album, no matter the date when introduced, nor how brought to perfection, no matter whether *serrated* or *smooth*, these are 'trivial varieties, not worth the trouble of securing.' But was Linnaeus more frivolous than Paxton?—certainly not. The one has left us a book (full of hard words it is true, and minute definitions) which has cheered and occupied the lonely hours of many an enthusiastic student of nature, while the other has given a stimulus to horticulture and ornamental gardening, which has secured him a fame equal to, but not greater than that of Linnaeus; both being estimable in their way. These so-called trivial varieties were not 'invented' for the purpose of study; but, being already in existence, are made by the French school of philately the subject of study. It may be an open question how far, if at all, rational and immortal beings may or should devote time and thought to such trifles. But life, it

should be recollected, is made up of trifles, just as time is made up of moments, and I, for one, maintain, that philately is as reasonable and as sensible a pursuit as most of those now in vogue, to fill up intervals of leisure not demanded by actual duties.

The difference between large and small perforations, is not so unimportant as it may at first appear. For instance, the 2 and 3 Austrian *soliti*, fine perforations were much earlier than the present coarse denticulations, and an unused specimen is by no means easy to obtain, and certainly the slight weakness, if weakness it be, of admitting both into one's album, does not deserve 'Sentinel's' severe condemnation of 'absurdity.' I must also have a shot at another idea of his, imported I should think from Utopia—viz., that there exist a privileged few collections which comprise every known stamp. If there be even one such in the wide world, it must be a *rara avis*, and I should like to see it.

At all events, he need not be apprehensive that these 'privileged few' are desirous, or will be so, of dictating the admission of 'small fry' into an album, as the *sine qua non* of a good collection. 'English collectors' do not differ so widely from continental collectors (or 'French amateurs,' as 'Sentinel' terms them) as he would have us believe; nor are they one whit behind them in attention to minute detail.

With regard to the item of expense, 'small fry' do not make so great a demand on one's purse as on one's patience. Of course, if a man will have a particular stamp just at the moment he wants it, he will have to pay a good price for it; but if he will calmly wait and watch, many a forgotten letter, and many a discarded collection will come under his notice, from which he may easily gratify his wishes.

'Sentinel's' philippic against the host of franking labels of all sorts and sizes, which are constantly intruding on genuine philately is, however, a reasonable warning to avoid all hybrids in which even 'French amateurs' must cordially coincide. But the happy medium after which he sighs will, I fear, never gladden his heart, either in this or any other pursuit under the sun; in fact, I am not sure that he has not deviated somewhat from it himself, in so severely condemning as frivolous and absurd, that which we of the French school take so much delight in promoting.

Botanic philately, if I may be allowed the term, may suit one mind; *horticultural* philately may suit another. Let each cultivate that which best suits his taste, but in my opinion it is making 'much ado about nothing' to attempt to depreciate either the one or the other.

FENTONIA.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

LOGOS.—The oblong erect Venezuela $\frac{1}{2}$ c. and 1c. are, we believe, still in use. They are newspaper, not letter stamps.

E. J. SPURRIER, Moseley, suggests that the first volume of the magazine should be reprinted if the publishers receive orders for a sufficient number of copies. The publishers, however, we are empowered to state, would not feel justified in making such a re-issue, unless they received, in advance, orders for at least two hundred volumes, at six shillings each.

J. WILLIAMS, Liverpool.—The Donna Maria series of Portugal was issued on July 1st, 1853; those bearing the head of Don Luis, on February 1st, 1855, except the 25 reis rose, which did not appear until January 1st, 1857.

R., Edinburgh.—We do not know what is the significance of the leaves on the left side of the Canadian 10d. —We see no reason to suppose that, what is generally believed to be a representation of the Mayflower, on the old Newfoundland, is really a rose.—It is probable that a new series of Belgian stamps, bearing the head of Leopold II., will be issued, but when we cannot say.—The South-German stamps, we believe, will continue in circulation over the same area as hitherto.—The stamps issued for Helsingfors and Tammerfors, respectively, are for local postage; doubtless the Finland stamps are also in use in those towns.—We are not aware that the Spanish authorities make it a rule to date the issues of stamps intended for only one year's currency; if so, they infringed their rule last year, as well as this.

MOONRAKER.—We believe the great majority of American locals are genuine stamps, which, at one time, did postal duty. The task of distinguishing between the 'shams' and the 'genuine articles,' would be a difficult one, even for an American resident, and few collectors would be disposed to accept as authoritative, the decision of any one person. The late Mr. Lesley, in an article, in vol. i. of this magazine, on United States locals, referred to the fact, that two hundred and sixty-four varieties were described in the fourth edition of Mount Brown, without raising any question as to the genuineness of the whole of them; in fact, he took that number as the basis of certain calculations there made.—The Government Despatch stamps should, we believe, be placed with the authorised issues.—The Blockade stamps are decidedly humbugs, and it is very doubtful whether the Richmond despatch series is worthy of a better title.—Our space is already too crowded to admit of our allotting any for the announcements to which you refer.—The dealer named by you is respectable and trustworthy.

B. B., Exmouth.—The Hanoverian stamps will, most probably, become obsolete in a short time.

P. S. N. C.—The Pacific Steam Navigation Company's stamps were in use from the 1st of December, 1857, to the 26th of February, 1858: postmarked copies are of extreme rarity; the reprints can be obtained for a trifle.

SPREAD-EAGLE, Chester.—The Russian Steam Navigation Company received authority from the Russian government to issue the Levant Stamps.

MISS L. T., Spalding.—It is uncertain when the emission of the 2 c. and 5 c. Belgian will take place. It has, we understand, been postponed.

A. B. C.—In the reply to your query last month, respecting the Western Australian stamps, the early 4d. octagonal impression was by some means omitted to be mentioned. The blue of the same type as the current carmine, though never fully in use, as evident from its unguessed number, we have seen postmarked.

CHARIVARI, Bridgwater, forwards for notice a Canadian bill stamp, value 3 cents, the work of the American Bank-Note Company. The profile on the 1 and 5 c. Nova Scotian postage stamps has been made to do duty on this commercial label; surrounded by an ornamented frame in the usual style of the well-known engravers.

X. PLAIN, Penzance.—The 9d. South Australian is also suppressed, hence the difficulty of obtaining specimens.

M. E.—The Indian is a provisional postage stamp, value 6 annas, made by utilising a bill stamp for the service by impressing in green letters on the upper part of the stamp the word POSTAGE. This specimen has served in the post, and is obliterated by the usual postmark, viz., a series of concentric octagons. This seems the precursor of a 6-anna stamp of the regular series.

RETIRING FROM BUSINESS.

'CIRCUMSTANCES over which they have no control,' have operated, within the last couple of months, to cause the retirement from business of at least four series of stamps, and to reduce the limits of currency of a fifth. The Hanoverian set, like the dynasty under which it was emitted, is obsolete; and the Venetian issue will depart shortly to that bureau whence no postage stamps return (except by special favour)—the bureau of the Austrian finance minister. Luckily, both series have been in existence sufficiently long to give most collectors the opportunity of obtaining them; it is principally, therefore, for the 'novices,' 'tyros,' and 'young beginners' that we regret their withdrawal. Three or four years hence a 'Bestellgeld' will be a valuable addition to an album, and even the 'head' stamps will have risen in the market. The Venetians will probably be more scarce; though not rare, they have never been so common as many other continental stamps. Perhaps the lack of trade in Austrian Italy, by lessening the correspondence, influenced the demand for them; or, it may be, the system of espionage led people to be cautious in trusting their written opinions to the care of the post.

Beside the Hanoverian and Venetian series, we may consider the hybrid Frankfort journal stamp, and the issues of Schleswig and Holstein, doomed to extinction. The whole of the territory in which they are current (except the small portion which may be returned to Denmark, with the King of Prussia's compliments) will belong solely to Prussia, and will therefore use her stamps.

To this troop of obsoletes some think the Saxon series will be added; but it seems by no means improbable that it will have at least three years more of active life. Prussia is desirous of retaining the control of the military, but not of the civil administration of Saxony; and it therefore seems likely that she will leave the postal service in the hands of the latter.

The emission whose circulating area has been curtailed, is that of Thurn and Taxis north. This office will no longer have

branches in Hanover, Electoral Hesse, Nassau, and Frankfort, as heretofore; and in consequence, it is said, the Prince of Thurn and Taxis has demanded from Prussia an indemnity of 1,200,000 florins (£120,000)!

Such are the influences of the late war on postage stamps. Sadowa settled the fate of stamps, as well as territories. However, we may be thankful that things are not so bad as our Belgian contemporary imagines. He, in an article which appeared in his August number, gave a list of no less than thirteen series of stamps, which he thought it very probable would be entirely suppressed. This list comprised Thurn and Taxis north, Bergedorf, Bremen, Brunswick, Hamburg, Hanover, Holstein, Lubeck, the two Mecklenburgs, Oldenburg, Schleswig, and Saxony. But this was written a month ago, and events move fast in this present year of grace. M. Moens may then have had reason to believe that all minor states north of the Maine would be incorporated with Prussia, or that she would assume, at any rate, the right of managing their postal service for them; but it now appears that only Hanover, Electoral Hesse, Nassau, and Frankfort will be actually united to Prussia. The remaining states will be simply confederated with her, and will, as a matter of course, follow her lead, retaining their nominal independence for the present.

And now the question is, will Prussia, in commemoration of the extension of her territory, supersede her present mediocre series by one worthy of her name and newly-acquired fame. Such a series would be welcome; and as an appropriate device for it, we may suggest the portrait of Count Bismarck (Duke that is to be), or a pair of needle-guns, tastefully represented.

ON THE MODES OF ENGRAVING & PRINTING USED FOR POSTAGE STAMPS.

THERE are two principal methods used in engraving: and a very clear idea of the fundamental difference between them may be easily obtained. The one where the design is sunk into the plate (*en creux*), is aptly illustrated by drawing a figure with a pointed stick on the sand; there, the out-

line is cut *downwards* into the surface, and sunken below it.

The other may well be shown by taking a leaf and covering it with colour, and then rubbing off the impression communicated by contact between the paper and the projecting parts. Probably an idea derived from this process gave rise to the art of engraving in relief (*en relief*), where the design to be produced is left intact on the original surface, and all other parts of the plate are cut away, as is the case in a common wood-block; a still more familiar instance is afforded by the types used in printing.

Engraving in relief was the original invention, and it was adopted in the shape of wood-blocks for vignettes and writing; and led to the invention of typographical printing. The wood first employed for typographical engraving was that of the pear tree, which is peculiarly close-grained. Box wood is used at present, which is much harder, and possesses the advantage of durability, while its fineness of grain allows more delicate touches than any other wood.

The pieces of wood manipulated upon are cut transversely from the trunk of the tree, so that whichever way the engraver works he never cuts against the grain. The surface is well polished to receive the draughtsman's design, and slightly whitened with Spanish white, either in powder or mixed with water, in order to render the lines of the design more legible. This design is drawn either with pencil, pen, or by means of tracing paper. The engraver employs tools, *gravers* or *burins*, made for the purpose, to scoop out the blank spaces left untouched by the designer's pencil, so that all the black marks on the design of the artist remain untouched and in relief. When the engraver judges his work completed, he blackens this block with a rubber dampened with printer's ink, which thus leaves ink on all the lines of the design; he then places paper thereupon, keeping it from slipping, and rubs the back with a smooth surface to take the impression, thus making what is termed an engraver's proof, which serves to show if any further touches are needful. He can lighten the shading if too heavy, but has no possible means of darkening it. Proofs made by

rubbing are generally held in high estimation, in consequence of their great clearness.

In designing for wood engraving, the shadows must be formed of single, simple lines only, as crossed ones are too difficult for the engraver to manage, and produce a bad effect in the impression by running into one another, and making a black blot instead of a graduated shade.

Typographical or relief engraving can be also effected on copper. In such case, the plate is covered with a varnish, which the engraver removes with pointed tools and scrapers from those places which in the case of the wood-block would be chiselled away. The plate thus prepared is plunged into a bath, composed of water and azotic acid, commonly called *aqua fortis*; the reverse side being previously protected with varnish. The effect of the *aqua fortis* is to form hollows by eating away the unprotected portions. When the acid has taken sufficient effect, the copper plate is washed with turpentine, and the finer touches are afterwards executed by hand with the *burin*. A steel plate is only used when it is desired to create from it a series of dies in sunken relief, so as to print according to the system first noticed above.

In addition to what we have been describing, there exist processes of recent discovery for the production of engravings intended to be printed typographically. By both Gillot's and Comte's process zinc is eaten away with acids, and thus the very lines of any artist's work are reproduced without having recourse to the engraver's *burin*. That of M. Dulos is a marvellous combination of science applied to the art of engraving. Electricity might be fancied obedient to his orders. He reproduces an artist's work in cameo or intaglio indiscriminately, *i. e.*, in engraving in relief or in sunken engraving. He forms a typographical or cameo die from a plate executed for engraving according to the system of sunken relief, and *vice versa*.

These different inventions being private property, it will be easily understood that we are unable to afford precise descriptions of them. They are mentioned solely to

show the immense progress made since Gutenberg's original idea, and will some day allow the most elementary works to be tastily illustrated at a slight expense.

From either of these different modes of cameo and relief (or typographical) engraving, let us imagine the result to be an actual postage stamp, which ought, for the sake of being authenticated by the postal *employés*, to be of the same type for different values. By means of the foundry, the galvanoplastic method, and the press, it is possible to reproduce as many times as necessary an identical engraving to serve indifferently with the model. These reproductions are called dies.

The printer with these dies composes a page of stamps in rows, each containing so many, according to the size of the paper; from them the sheets of stamps are afterwards printed off like a page of some illustrated journal, the back of the sheet being left blank.

When the same vignette is to serve for all values in turn, the values only are separately engraved and reproduced in the dies, which are set up according to the above-described method, being severally added in their proper places in the composition of the sheet. There are also cases when the required value is added to the die in the matrix, which new die, thus being constituted, becomes a matrix in turn for every derivative die of the same value.

Some issues have different designs for each denomination: those of Thurn and Taxis, for instance. There are others, like the current Italians, having the same design, but a different encompassing ornamentation. In such case the portraits or armorial bearings, which are common parts to all the stamps of the series, are cast from the same matrix; and then the legend and distinctive ornaments of each value are carefully added, in the shape of a surrounding die, which closely fits the centre, and with it forms that which is used.

These moveable dies, fitting into each other in the manner above described, facilitate a simultaneous impression in two colours; the Russians and 1865 Spanish

are examples. The registered Victorias were struck off at two successive impressions. In the latter case, the colours are liable to be printed one over another, which mischance is impossible in a simultaneous impression from dies which are fitted into each other.

There remains to explain how the proofs made by typography are recognizable.

When the impression is taken off on rough paper, the ink is unable to penetrate its granules; hence arise white specks among the shaded parts of the die. On smooth or glazed paper, these marks caused by the absence of ink are rarer. A characteristic of typographical proofs is the appearance of the impression on the reverse in slight relief. The same pressure which causes this also forces the colouring matter towards the white parts, and gives rise to coloured blotches in the shadows. The cheek of Mercury in the series of Greek stamps printed in Athens is a good exponent of this defect, where the fine shading near the white parts is coarsely rendered.

There are numerous exceptions to the characteristics just given, inasmuch as they are defects; of which some few first-rate proofs are totally devoid, among which we may notably class those emanating from the house of Messrs. De la Rue & Co.

(To be continued).

SOUTH AMERICAN EMBLEMS.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

It is interesting to find upon some of the South American stamps the mementos of an extinct faith, strangely mixed, though they may be, with modern heraldic emblems. In Prescott's *History of the Conquest of Peru*, we find the following statement:—The most renowned of the Peruvian temples, the pride of the capital, and the wonder of the empire, was at Cuzco, where—under the munificence of successive sovereigns—it had become so enriched that it received the name of *Coricancha*, or 'the place of gold.' The interior of the temple was the most worthy of admiration. It was literally a mine of gold. On the western wall was emblazoned a representation of the Deity, consisting of a

human countenance looking forth from innumerable rays of light, which emanated from it in every direction, in the same manner as the sun is often personified with us. The figure was engraved on a massive plate of gold of enormous dimensions, thickly powdered with emeralds and precious stones. It was so situated, in front of the great eastern portal, that the rays of the morning sun fell directly upon it at its rising, lighting up the whole apartment with an effulgence that seemed more than natural, and which was reflected back from the golden ornaments with which the walls and ceiling were everywhere encrusted.

Here surely we have the antitype of 'the sun resplendent,' as Mount Brown appropriately phrases it, which appears on the old Monte Videan stamps; and also, but less conspicuously, on the present issue. It does not indeed appear that the Peruvian empire ever extended so far south as Uruguay, but neither is there proof that the worship of the sun was peculiar to the subjects of the Incas. The probability is that it extended over the greater part of the continent. The Incas themselves being the children of the sun, and of supposed divine origin, were deeply interested in the propagation of their religion. In all their wars its establishment in the territory of their opponents was a principal aim, and we may therefore conjecture that the worship of the sun-god was spread amongst the aborigines of Uruguay by Peruvian warriors or missionaries—or else was, if we may use the term, indigenous.

The house on a rock, which occupies the right upper corner of the armorial shield on the last and present issues of Monte Video, may also be intended as a representation of the ancient 'sun-tower.' In the old Peruvian capital, Cuzco, it is said that there were four towers, placed so as to receive the sun's rays, which, from their position, chronicled the seasons and indicated the proper time for the holding of religious festivals.* The cow on the same stamps calls up in our mind the thought of jerked beef; perhaps the animal

is intended to typify the bovine wealth of the republic, but we have not even a rambling conjecture to offer as to the meaning of the horse and scales which occupy the compartments on the left side of the shield.

On the Ecuador stamps the sun appears fastened to an arch. We think this arch must be intended to represent the rainbow, which was 'the imperial standard, the armorial ensign of the Incas, intending their claims as children of the skies.*' We know that Ecuador formed part of the ancient empire, and such a combination of symbols seems not improbable. They find themselves, however, in strange company, surmounted by the hackneyed 'bird of freedom,' and shining on a steamboat which has just left the rocky, and apparently inhospitable shore, below which appears the *fusces* of the Roman licitor with the axe unconcealed. Truly an odd mixture of classic insignia, barbaric emblems, and modern inventions.

On the old Peruvian stamps we find represented a llama, a tree, and a cornucopia; the latter is, perhaps, intended to typify the prosperity which results from national independence. The tree, we imagine, is the *maquey* plant, or agave, which the Peruvians have always cultivated to great advantage, obtaining from it both food and clothing.

Of the llama, the remaining type, the following account appears in Prescott's History:—

'Of the four varieties of the Peruvian sheep, the llama, the one most familiarly known, is the least valuable on account of its wool. It is chiefly employed as a beast of burden, for which, although it is somewhat larger than any of the other varieties, its diminutive size and strength would seem to disqualify it. It carries a load of little more than a hundred pounds, and cannot travel above three or four leagues in a day. But all this is compensated by the little care and cost required for its management and its maintenance. It picks up an easy subsistence from the moss and stunted herbage that grow scantily along the withered sides and steepes of the Cordilleras. The structure of its stomach, like that of the

* It will be observed on reference, that the tower on the stamps is unshaded, and that the appearance of the rock on which it stands favours the idea that it faces the sun. The flag floating from the tower militates rather against this theory.

* Prescott's History of the Conquest of Peru.

camel, is such as to enable it to dispense with any supply of water for weeks—nay, months together. Its spongy hoof, armed with a claw, or pointed talon, to enable it to take secure hold on the ice, never requires to be shod; and the load laid upon its back rests securely in its bed of wool, without the aid of girth and saddle. The llamas move in troops of five hundred, or even a thousand, and thus, though each individual carries but little, the aggregate is considerable. The whole caravan travels on at its regular pace, passing the night in the open air, without suffering from the coldest temperature, and marching in perfect order, and in obedience to the voice of the driver. It is only when overloaded that the spirited little animal refuses to stir, and neither blows nor caresses can induce him to rise from the ground. He is as sturdy in asserting his rights on this occasion, as he is usually docile and unresisting. The employment of domestic animals distinguished the Peruvians from the other races of the New World. The economy of human labour by the substitution of the brute is an important element of civilization, inferior only to what is gained by the substitution of machinery for both. Yet the ancient Peruvians seem to have made much less account of it than their Spanish conquerors, and to have valued the llama, in common with the other animals of that genus, chiefly for its fleece. Immense herds of these “large cattle,” as they are called, and of the “smaller cattle,” or *alpacos*, were held by the government, as already noticed, and placed under the direction of shepherds, who conducted them from one quarter of the country to another, according to the changes of the season. These migrations were regulated with all the precision with which the code of the *mesta* determined the migrations of the vast merino flocks in Spain; and the conquerors, when they landed in Peru were amazed at finding a race of animals so similar to their own in properties and habits, and under the control of a system of legislation which might seem to have been imported from their native land.

With this lengthy extract we must bring to a conclusion our chapter of ‘may-be’s.’

A DISH OF TRAVEL SEASONED WITH POSTAGE STAMPS.

BY THE EDITOR.

(Concluded from page 139).

FROM Prague we made a slight detour, for the purpose of visiting the fine old city of Ratisbon, where we saw the palace of the Prince of Thurn and Taxis, once as mythic a personage as Prester John; then the wonderful Valhalla, one of those ‘things of beauty’ which we cannot help regretting was not better positioned. It seems too far from everywhere, and the vast extent of view it commands is wanting in beauty and variety. We suppose his Bavarian majesty’s idea was to prevent its desecration, by denying too facile an access to his beery subjects. Returning thence, we were amused at an Englishman travelling alone, *en grand seigneur*, and vainly attempting in a great rage to hurry a German postilion without knowing a word of German. The man was perfectly unconcerned, though he saw his fare was displeased at something. Passau per rail, where the Emperor’s birthday was being celebrated by a general turn-out of regulars and militia to attend high mass in the cathedrals, in which the sound of drums and other warlike instruments had, to our unaccustomed ears, a strange effect. Steamer to Lintz, the beauty of whose situation seems to inspire the inhabitants with such taste that we should like them to start some local stamps, which we feel assured would be ornaments to our albums. The very butter brought for our tea was fashioned into flowers and sprigs, and the ices made at once to delight the palate and the eye. We were rather puzzled here to tell the hour, all the clocks using the *shorter* as the minute hand!

Danube again to Vienna. Here we first saw those fanciful but elegant Hanoverian proofs or essays, now well-known in collections, also those for Austrian envelopes, noticed in our article on ‘New Stamps,’ in January last. It does not speak well for the impartiality of officials that rejected essays are so often superior to admitted candidates. The civility of Bohemians, Austrians, and Hungarians cannot be exceeded; they make

nothing of going two or three streets out of *their* way to show you yours. In Presburg one woman went several hundred yards in the pouring rain, uncovered, to direct us aright. In that city we were surprised to find so many speak English. We bought here a 25 kreuzer envelope for home correspondence, but could get no explanation of the anomaly that an adhesive of that value was never issued. Another day on the Danube, from Presburg to Pesth. We cannot but fancy the Rhine over-praised. The Elbe is quite as beautiful; but the Danube far excels it in grandeur and scenery. The primate of Hungary was in our steamer, and landed in great state about half way to the capital. The Hungarians are certainly a noble race, the utter absence of German phlegm betokening their oriental origin. A merry party on board were chorussing; and those who have witnessed the exaggerated style of the Hungarian dancers in this country, may form some idea of the deafening *tupage* they made of it. We could not but feel pride in the fine suspension bridge connecting Pesth and Buda, as the work of an Englishman. The former city is handsome and improving; the public buildings may take rank with those of any European capital. The Jews' synagogue is, we believe, the most splendid known. This may be easily imagined; but Buda is indescribable, and must be seen to be appreciated. As a habitation, we should rank that of its governor as the most enviable in the world.

The voyage *up* the Danube is tedious; we returned therefore per rail to Vienna, visiting the palace and gardens of Schönbrunn, and the enchanting watering-place of Baden, before taking final leave of Vienna. A brief sojourn at the lovely lake of Gmunden, and a rather more lengthened one at Ischl, one of the fairest spots in Germany, preceded by a short rest at Salzburg, where the wretched farce of a conference, as events prove, had just been held. The postilion that drove the diligence thither from Ischl wore the veritable post-horn and variegated cord so often depicted on postage stamps. In Salzburg we witnessed the triumphal entry of a captive brigand escorted by a whole detachment of soldiers, not to mention men,

women, and children. Of the whole party he looked about the least concerned.

At Munich we were disappointed at missing a view of Dr. de Volpi's magnificent collection, its owner being from home, but have since had that pleasure, as remarked before. Thence to Stuttgart, in which city we experienced the mortification of being taken in by a shuffling dealer. Then to Wildbad—where we met with the curious envelopes noted in last May's magazine—a delightful locality for a week or two's stay. Then Carlsruhe, where the clock hands are reversed like those of Lintz. Then Baden-Baden, where we had the misfortune of getting our pocket picked at the Conversations Haus. Of great importance and value to ourselves, we had the consolation of knowing the thief must have been woefully disappointed on inspecting his prize. Some English postage stamps he might find available; but others, valuable to us, as the old 4 kreuzer Austrian brown for instance, unused Bavarian, Wurtembergs, a packet of La Guaira stamps, *all* the memoranda we had made of our tour, so that we have been obliged to write entirely from memory; and, above all, the particulars of a running account between ourselves and a party, the loss of which carries off five pounds, besides the addresses of *all* our correspondents and friends, British Museum ticket, and a few silver articles, were a slight booty to the plunderer, though invaluable to the loser.

Strasbourg afforded a third view of its matchless cathedral, and a second of the choice collection of M. Oscar Berger-Levrault, greatly increased since our first inspection three years since. On arrival thither from Baden-Baden, owing to the eccentricities of railway time we found that after some miles of travelling, the delays of changing and waiting for trains twice, besides detention at the Custom House, the hour was exactly five minutes before we had started in the morning!

The capital of Lorraine—would that its noble square could be transported to London—was the next halting place; then Rheims, the magnificence of its cathedral incongruously jumbling with Ingoldsby's jackdaw. The builders, or rather designers,

in the days when those glorious piles were erected, must have been privileged individuals, or the heads of the church were not so bigoted as they have the credit of being; witness the sculpturing round the grand door of Rheims cathedral, where the last judgment is depicted, a very large majority of the luckless victims carried off by devils are bishops, priests, and monks. The association of ideas just touched on has struck us before, at sight of the wonderful figure of St. Michael over his fountain in Paris. That so noble a conception and such perfect execution should have any connexion with goose and quarter-day!

Paris again: still, as each year passes, more beautified. We wish the Emperor, improving everything he touches upon, would condescend slightly to brush up the post-office. Letters pass between Belgium or Holland and England for less money, and moreover, take double the weight, than between England and France! Again, what a ridiculous rule that of dabbing a patch of sealing-wax on every fold of a registered letter's envelope. They are just as finical in this respect, though so much cheaper, in Brussels. A few days since, we were sent home three times from the post-office there. Once, because the envelope was not sealed at every fold; a second time, because the seals were too small; and again, because (our stock of wax being exhausted) they were not the same colour, and we had used our crest instead of initials. Another reform in the Paris post-office would be a great boon. Not always being certain of going to any particular hotel, your letters are directed 'Poste Restante.' When your locality is fixed, by informing the postal authorities thereof, surely your letters ought to be forwarded accordingly. Not so; a letter directed 'Poste Restante' must stay till called for, and you have the trouble of visiting the Rue Jean Jacques Rousseau, and want all his philosophy every day, on account of this absurd piece of French red tapery.

We write in a grumbling mood, and conclude in the same amiable frame of mind, having been just informed that the Prussians have stopped every means of communication between all the places whither we intended

proceeding, and not having the least idea what course to take.

THE AUSTRIAN 'MERCURIES.'

Condensed from *Der Briefmarken Sammler*.

THE advantage of knowing the exact date of each postal issue has long been acknowledged by collectors—not only as interesting in itself, but as being very useful in many respects, particularly as a protection against forgeries. Perhaps to no stamps are these remarks more applicable than to the ill-understood Austrian newspaper stamps, especially the 'Mercuries.'

The following accurate information, derived entirely from official sources, will throw considerable light on the history of these interesting stamps, and must be acceptable to every inquirer. Austrian postage stamps (or, as they were officially called, *Briefstempel*, not *Briefmarken*, as is usual) received the imperial sanction on the 26th September, 1849, were ordered by the Minister of Trade, 26th March, 1850, and were actually issued on June 1st of the same year. Newspaper stamps (not for duty, but for postage) were not decreed till 12th September, 1850, and did not come into use till 1st January, 1851. Their price was fixed at a *gulden* or 60 *kreuzer* per hundred, so that the value of each stamp was something more than half a *kreuzer*, which would free only a single newspaper. If several newspapers were enclosed in the same wrapper, and addressed to one individual only, ordinary stamps of higher value might be used, but they never were used; for, by a subsequent decree, dated 3rd Dec., 1850, and before the actual issue of the blue Mercury, the red and the yellow Mercury were ordered, and though decided upon so much later, they were issued simultaneously with the blue Mercury on the 1st January, 1851. The red was worth fifty blue Mercuries, and cost half a *gulden* each (about tenpence English), and franked fifty newspapers, provided they were under one cover, and directed to one person. The yellow Mercury was worth ten blue ones, and cost six *kreuzer*, and of course franked ten newspapers under the same regulations.

By a decree of the 9th October, 1852, the

red Mercuries were withdrawn, after not quite two years existence, but in order to use up the stock in hand, they were for a short time issued to the public instead of the blue, and sold at a *gulden* per hundred. The yellow Mercury continued in use till the 20th March, 1856, when it was withdrawn, and, like the red, the remainders were ordered to be sold and used instead of the blue Mercury.

By the same decree which suppressed the yellow Mercury, it was ordered that a new issue of the red Mercury, of a *deep* red shade should be issued, at 6 *kreuzers* each, to frank ten newspapers, as the yellow Mercury had previously done.

This new deep-red issue, value 6 kreuzer, is not to be confounded with the pale-red issue of 1851, value 30 kreuzer. It differs from the latter both in colour and design.

[Pemberton maintains that all Mercuries are from the same die.]

Hitherto no one seems to have had any idea of the existence of these two issues of the red Mercury of different values, though four years elapsed between them. The pale-red Mercury of 1851 is of the greatest rarity—many collectors have never even seen one. The yellow Mercuries are rather more common. They are, as well as the deep-red ones, seldom postmarked, the minor post-offices having, in spite of repeated instructions, generally omitted to obliterate them. Genuine specimens of this deep-red Mercury have hitherto, but erroneously, been condemned as forgeries, both by dealers and collectors.

We presume both this and the blue became obsolete in 1858, when the emperor's head was substituted for the imperial arms on the other postage stamps.

In conclusion, be it understood that the so-called Austrian stamps for foreign newspapers received from a foreign country, 1 kr. black, 2 kr. green, brown, or red, 4 kr. brown or red, and 1 kr. blue, are not postage stamps, but simply stamps stuck on newspapers arriving from foreign parts, to show that the duty has been duly paid for them. They have no business in a collection of postage stamps, and ought to be thrown away.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

OUR paper on novelties was so amply enriched last month, that but little additional matter in that way can be reasonably expected to be forthcoming now. There seems, even in the absence of any positively new appearance, however, something always noticeable with respect to individuals slightly mentioned and not fully described or figured, so that our readers need never fear that we shall have to omit our monthly article for lack of matter.

URUGUAY.—One of the envelopes lately issued for the use of the republic of Uruguay, forms our first illustration. They were first mentioned so long since as in our number for August. The general design, as will be seen on comparison, is the same as for the labels, 'with a difference.' Being circular in lieu of rectangular, the inscription encompasses the figure of value. The armorial bearings are alike, but the place of the sixty-six minute repetitions of value is, with greater elegance, if less singularity, filled up by the rays of the rising sun. The word *centecimos*, again, on the curve of the figure 5, commences from above instead of below. Two values as yet have been issued, viz.,—5 and 10 centecimos, the former blue, the latter green. The colours are bright, and the design is in excellent relief, the small figures in the compartments of the armorial shield showing out very clearly. The tongue of the envelope is embellished with a circular stamp representing the sun rising over the sea. Considerable care appears to have been taken in the preparation of this little ornament, which is printed in relief, and of the same colour as the stamp. The design on this flap-stamp appears to be partly armorial and partly fanciful, reminding us of the roughly-impressed elephant and palm tree on the reverse of the Indian envelopes. We may remark, further, that the 10 centecimos adhesive, which seems the most generally used of the quartette, has received the perforatory improvement.



We also give our subscribers a representation of this apparently-distinct variety of the rare 60 centavos blue emission of Monte Video. Those who are fortunate enough to possess a specimen of that long-doubted, but decidedly-genuine production,



can compare them, and judge for themselves whether the distinctive characteristics do not warrant its adoption as a variety. The word *DILIGENCIA* occupies a larger space, and the upper and lower marginal borders are wider, the side pattern is different, and the sun's rays are fewer in number.

ST. VINCENT.—Within the last month or six weeks the number of St. Vincent stamps has been doubled, by the emission of a four-penny blue, and shilling purple-black. The device of both is identical with that of the earlier pair, and both are printed on unwatermarked, perforated, white paper.

EAST INDIA.—We now present our readers with an engraving of the transmogrified bill



stamp, which does duty, provisionally, as a six-annas postage stamp. We referred to this stamp in reply to a query in the last number, and have little to add to the information there given. The head is the same as that on the regular series of stamps. To

fit the commercial label for its new employment, the two ends bearing inscriptions, now irrelevant, are cut off, and the word *POSTAGE* printed above in green letters. The colour of the stamp is lilac, of the same shade as that of the 8 pies.

NEW GRANADA.—Another addition to the numerous varieties of this most fickle of countries. The 1 peso of the existing type is no longer *carmine*, but appears *vermilion*.

RUSSIA.—Republican Granada and autocratic Russia have, rather singularly, about the same time, made a similar change in the colour of a postage stamp. The hitherto pink 30 kop. envelope of Russia is now bright-red.

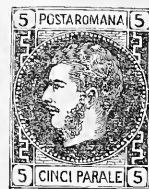
BELGIUM.—The new issue for this country now only awaits the emission of the 2 c. to be complete; the 5 c. having been emitted during the past month. The appended engraving will show its general similarity to the 1 c., but the type having been re-engraved, some minor differences are perceptible. The scroll above



is narrower. The topmost bunch of leaves on each side consists of four, instead of three, and the groundwork is formed of diagonal *white*, instead of dark lines, the spaces between being shaded. The new stamp is perforated, and coloured brown.

The new one centime, in consequence, as we are given to understand, of fracture of the perforating machine, now requires the knife or scissors. Whatever our correspondent 'Sentinel' may think to the contrary, this circumstance renders the denticulated and undenticulated specimens as distinct as pinks and carnations.

MOLDO-WALLACHIA.—Our next illustration depicts one of the trio just emanated from the united territories of Moldavia and Wallachia, which ought, certainly, to be allowed their early appellation of Roumania. The stamp is simple, and the cut, of which we have a fine and perfect proof before us, clearly describes the appearance of the original. The profile of Prince Charles is expressive



of great determination of character, a qualification essentially requisite for the rule of his turbulent subjects. The three labels bear the same values as their predecessors, viz.,—2, 5, and 20 parale. The colours, also, are nearly identical; but instead of being on white, the stamps are black on coloured paper, the lowest value being yellow, not orange. They are unwatermarked, and, possibly from misadventure, our own 2 parale is ungummed.

PORTUGAL.—Two companions to the blue 120 reis of this country, described and figured last month, lie before us. The type, paper, &c. are identical; values 20 reis pale drab-

brown, 80 reis orange. The colour of the current 50 reis is now *yellowish* instead of *bluish green*.

JAMAICA.—As illustrative of the indifference of the Jamaica postal officials as to what class of stamps is used to prepay postage, we may mention that on a letter recently received from the island, a *penny* revenue stamp was found in company with the usual twopenny, threepenny, and sixpenny. This stamp is the same size as the threepenny, which it resembles in general appearance, the differences being that the value is above, and the inscription below the profile, and that the spandril ornaments are dark on a white ground, instead of white on a solid ground. The specimen before us is postmarked with the rest.

MEXICO.—We are just in time to note a veritable imperial issue. To the postage stamp portraits must now be added that of the emperor Max., which, however, on the new series is not so prepossessing as that with which the illegitimate essays were graced. Hard work, or the friction of a crown which for some time past has not sat easily, has operated to reduce the flowing crop which graced the emperor's head in pleasanter times, so that on this latest emission he appears almost bald, and bearing in profile, no slight resemblance to Garibaldi. His portrait is surrounded by an oval border, inscribed IMPERIO MEXICANO above, CORREOS below, and value on each side. This is enclosed in a rectangular frame, and, after the fashion of the obsolete stamps, the date of issue is printed in black on the upper margin, and MEXICO below. We have, hitherto, seen only two values, 7 c. dark-brown, and 25 c. orange, both on white paper, unperforated and unwatermarked, but probably others have been emitted. We purpose giving an engraving of one of them next month.

PRUSSIA, FELD-POST.—In addition to the envelope described under this name, for the use of Saxony, is one destined for employment by those Prussians who wished to correspond with friends or relatives in the army. The other is green, and the royal arms, of which we gave a representation, tended slightly to grace the envelope, but the one now under examination seems made

entirely for business purposes, and boast not an atom of ornament. The obverse, which is white, is portioned into compartments by black lines, plain or dotted, between which were to be written the name, rank, regiment, &c., of the receiver; place of destination, &c. The words *regiment, division, company, squadron, cavalry, infantry*, and many others being printed thereon, to facilitate the address, and ensure safe transmission. On the reverse are sundry directions, both to the receiver and expeditor of the despatch, which latter must sign his name and address in a place expressly designated.

CASHMERE.—This little-known country, whose title calls up in many a fair collector's mind some pleasant reminiscence of a 'love of a shawl,' and to our gentleman readers brings a dim idea of floating gardens, possesses an issue of postage stamps. Such an issue! The first Shanghai's were models of perfection compared with these primitive impressions, which are scarcely more than circular blotches. To be exact: the centre is occupied with a round blot, with a couple of white patches in it. This blot is surrounded by white rays, which encroach on a black circular disk, containing a number of Hindostani characters. The whole is enclosed by a double linear circle, and printed on thin yellowish gummed paper. A French journal, *Le Collectionneur*, also chronicles impressions in blue and in red, and states that the issue has been made by order of the Rajah of Cashmere. The specimens forwarded by an obliging correspondent for our inspection were found on a letter, side by side with the ordinary Indian stamps.

MISSING THE POST.*

BEYOND all question, the gravest thing which can happen connected with the business of a newspaper is that of 'missing the post.' If the editor be shot in a duel, his place is easily supplied. Everybody knows how to conduct a newspaper. It is not like cabinet-

* [We have disinterred this article from an old volume of *Chambers's Journal*, where it appeared as a quotation from *The Glasgow Citizen*. As the same mishap as is here described probably still happens occasionally, and the political allusions have their parallels in the papers of the day, the humour of the piece is in no degree obsolete.—Ed.]

making, or plaster-work, or the measuring out of ribbons, or the tying-up of sugar-plums. All these things require an apprenticeship. Newspaper editing, on the contrary, comes by instinct, like grazing to a colt. 'Miss the post,' however, and the calamity is irreparable. It would be a thirteenth labour of Hercules to put salt on the tail of a railway train in motion. Accordingly, the struggle to catch the post is a terrible heat against time. A ship-launch, the opening of a railway, the first night of a new pantomime, are nothing to it. Such running to and fro—such shuffling in loose slippers—such shouting—such knocking over of ink-bedaubed inps! It beats an ant's nest or an assaulted beehive. A shoal of Lochfine herrings fluttering their silver scales in the sunshine is tameness in comparison. 'Who's at the murder?'—'another birth!'—'hand here that fire!'—'has anybody the cholera?'—'more marriages!'—'correct Prince Albert!'—'here's an elopement!'—'cut out Sir Robert Peel!'—'more hands for this shipwreck!'—'tie up O'Connell!'—'now for the chase!'—and a thousand other mysterious sounds, are bellowed forth in confused jumble. An alderman's kitchen on a feast-day—a sempstress's work-room on the eve of a public ball—the desperate search for missing hats and cloaks on the breaking up of an assembly—are but faint types of the scene. It rivals the clangour of a fair—the deck of a seventy-four during an engagement—or the feverish activity and dire struggle of the populace at a midnight conflagration. It is an occasion in which elbows are poked into ribs, and the sanctity of corns is invaded. And is all unavailing? Hark! the clock strikes!—it booms upon the spirit like a convent-bell; a hush—a murmur—a muttered exclamation follows; further struggle is vain—the nerves are relaxed, and the perspiration is wiped from the forehead! Five minutes would have done it, but less would still have been fatal. Mercutio's wound was neither 'so deep as a well, nor so wide as a church-door,' but it was enough. Every one feels as if an iron gate had been suddenly slammed in his face, and arms are folded in the resignation of helplessness. The thing is all up—knocked on the head—done for—as settled and irre-

coverable as spilled milk. In a word—'the post has been missed.'

But does the disappointment end here? Drop a pebble in the lake, and ask whether a single tiny ring is all the commotion it produces. To obscure nooks, and far-distant localities, the feeling gyrates. Old men in chimney-corners don their spectacles in vain—the lodge-bell of lordly mansion is as undisturbed as the bait of the invalid angler fishing from his arm-chair in a tub—the postman passes the door of the hamlet-politician with a mortifying shake of the head—girls trip down green lanes and along cross-roads only to carry back the intelligence, 'No newspaper!' An evening of *ennui* is borne to five hundred hearths. A thousand of the queen's loyal subjects are doomed to distressing ignorance as to whether her majesty walked on Wednesday last with Prince Albert on the slopes. The village baker is half-ruined from not knowing the price of grain. The country dabbler in stocks, deprived of expected information, foregoes his night's sleep, falls ill, and dies. Nothing is known. The great world is a blank. Has Mrs. M'What's-her-name got a son? Is O'Connell caressing or cursing the English?—which at present? Any more revolutions in Spain? Does the Prince de Joinville see anything offensive in English windmills?—(if he do, let him assault them—the achievement would not be without suitable precedent). Has a French admiral at Tahiti bitten his thumb at a British officer? Has Sidney Smith keel-hauled brother Jonathan? Has Lord Brougham filed an indictment against *Punch*? Has poverty driven Father Mathew to the bottle? Any accidents?—fires, storms, shipwrecks, assassinations, murders, or wars? No answer—no newspaper! Husbands and fathers are busy losing their temper, solely because they have nothing else to do. Wives are accordingly scolded—children thrashed—young ladies' lovers snubbed—matrimonial negotiations broken off—and the destinies of families revolutionised. A correspondent of ours wonders if his paper has cut its way through the mail-bag, like certain leeches which were lately despatched by post, and which were never again seen in the flesh!

The same friendly writer, after expressing his disappointment, says—"But I am not the only disappointed party; for so highly do I appreciate the —, and so deserving of circulation do I deem it, that, after perusing it myself, I either read or lent it to nine friends, on an average, each week. Now, dear sir, consider that here are ten of us, "young men and maidens, old men and children," from whom a weekly supply of intellectual food is suddenly stopped. How can I show my face this evening in a certain house, whither I am wont to repair every Saturday night, with the — in my pocket, and where the old man, although professedly indifferent to newspapers and all that they contain, is sure to be seated in his arm-chair, beside a bright fire, with his spectacles wiped carefully for the occasion? His worthy old partner, too, although the frequent promulgator of a theory of her own, that newspaper stories are "*a' hancers*," is sure to be seated on the other side of the fire, ready to hear the news, having brought the week's cares to a close, so that no "house affairs" may "draw her hence." I need not say anything about another member of this family—an only daughter—with whom the — and myself are very great favourites, and to whom, in another apartment, I generally read the poetry and other nice bits, which the old man is apt to skip. Again, what a disappointment will a certain legal friend of mine experience to-morrow! He is one so accustomed to *take in* people on the six working days of the week, that he must take in something—if it should only be a newspaper—on the Sunday too; and not being fond of *paying* for a newspaper (or anything else), I lend him mine for nothing. Then on Monday, what will become of another reader, a fair and faintly-tinged-with-blue friend of mine, and enthusiastic admirer—not of your bodily man, my dear sir, for neither she nor any of us has ever beheld it, but of that' * * *

A clean collar, John, and French polish for our boots. The passage omitted is not inappropriately represented by stars. On reading it, our first impulse was to wear our deaky à la Byron, and cultivate ambrosial curls. With the lawyer referred to in the

extract given, we cannot profess much sympathy; but for the rest—well, no matter—better folks than ourselves have missed the post ere now. Cast your eye on that elderly maiden—(goodness forefend that we should be personal!)—the traces of beauty are visible in her countenance; she had lovers *once*, but she hesitated too long—she expected—she hoped too much—she lingered proudly past market-hours—and now, with a crushed heart and withered affections, she feels that she has 'missed the post!' Whose gray head is that? Why, old Singleton's. He always thought of marrying, but he first wanted a little more money—the little more money brought with it a little higher ambition—and when at last he *did* make up his mind, a fair and buoyant damsel—radiant as Jupiter's own cupbearer—looked up laughing in his face, and told him he had 'missed the post!' Make way there for Mrs. Heavy-sides!—where's the coach?—gone—round the corner—to catch it is impossible: my dear madam, you have infallibly 'missed the post.' But we need not multiply examples. Suffice it, that, by this simple act, many a golden vision has been dissipated—many a fortune lost—many a bright jewel of happiness for ever dropped into the sea. Reader, in whatever station of life thy lot be cast—whatsoever business thou hast on hand—or whatsoever bright vista thou mayest look through in thy sleeping or waking dreams, beware of rashness on the one hand; but never forget, at the same time, that there is an opposite error—perhaps still more to be avoided—we mean 'MISSING THE POST.'

NOTES AND MEMORANDA CONCERNING NEWSPAPER STAMPS.

THE following notes, which refer only to such stamps as are found impressed on the newspaper itself, and, doubtless, enumerate but a very small proportion of the existing varieties, are now put forth simply to commence the ventilation of a branch of philately which (with the exception of Dr. Gray's) most catalogues completely ignore; and, although works of art will not be found amongst them, with such pretensions to amongst as are displayed on many postage stamps, yet their study will hardly fail to be

as interesting at least as that of the local labels.

Commencing with our own country, we find—

- A. Crowned rose, shamrock, and thistle, in white on coloured ground, on a mantle; motto, SEMPER EADEM, on curved label at foot. The value signified by repetitions of the word HALFPENNY above and beneath. Vermilion impression.

One penny; twopence; threepence half-penny.

- B. Same design, but value expressed in words. *Threepence; fourpence.*

It is questionable whether the above franked newspapers by the post, or whether they were duty stamps. Perhaps they served for both purposes.

- C. Similar device, but coloured impression on white; motto, DIEU ET MON DROIT. Value above and at foot, name of the journal on the left, and NEWSPAPER or SUPPLEMENT on the right. Vermilion impression.

One halfpenny; one penny; threehalf-pence.

- D. Same device, but DISC^T 25^T P^N CENT on right. Vermilion impression.

One penny.

- E. Two crescents joined at their points, and thus forming a circle, within which is the value and crown, encircled by a wreath of oak and bay; NEWSPAPER in one crescent and the name of the paper in the other; transverse oval. Black impression.

One halfpenny; one penny.

- F. The name of the paper between two flat oval lines, enclosing a similar device to the last. Black impression; transverse oval.

One penny.

- G. A crown encircled by a wreath of bay, oak, rose, shamrock, and thistle, over-arched by name of newspaper; value in straight label at foot. Black impression. D shaped.

Three-halfpence.

- H. The value crowned, within a wreath of bay, &c., as last, surrounded by an octagonal label bearing the name of the journal. Black impression; octagon.

Twopence.

The above-described stamps are impressed on the blank sheets, before the subject-matter is printed thereon.

FRANCE has also a newspaper stamp which is impressed in the same manner as those for Great Britain—on the blank newspaper sheets. The design is—

Justice seated, with staff and scales, by an altar, on which is seated an eagle. Value 6 CEN., on front of altar; inscription TIMBRE IMPERIAL and SEINE, at foot. Coloured impression; circular.

The die by which this stamp is impressed is actually that of the tax of 6 centimes, to which all newspapers are liable, but in this case the impression is in black; if, however, the newspaper is to be franked by the post, the impression is made in red, and the value is increased to 10 centimes, though not shown to be so increased on the stamps; and the difference of 4 centimes goes into the postal treasury.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—On some of the earlier newspapers of this colony are found black handstamped stamps, no value being named thereon, the design being—

A large crown surrounded by two elliptical lines, containing between them CENTRAL POST-OFFICE, CAPE TOWN. Black impression; transverse oval.

FRANKFORT.—This stamp has been described previously in this magazine.

ITALY.—These stamps, which were hand-stamped on the blank newspaper sheets, were first issued in 1849 for Sardinia only, but were afterwards extended to the whole of Italy. The first issue consisted of eight different values, viz.,—1 centesimo for the interior, and 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, and 15 centesimi for foreign postage. The design of these stamps is a circular interrupted line enclosing STAMPA TI FRANCHI above, R. POSTE, and name of town from whence issued at foot, and value in the centre, and were impressed in red. The whole of the above were superseded by adhesive stamps for foreign countries, and a 2 centesimi stamp for the interior, this latter is shield-shaped, enclosing R. POSTE STAMPATI FRANCHI at top, value in centre, and name of town at foot, and were printed in red and black; issued in 1859, and suppressed the same year. Turin alone

has retained the large circular stamps, the other cities having adopted for the 1 centesimo, a stamp bearing the value within a double circle, the words PERIODICI FRANCHI being placed above, between the circles, printed in red and carmine. The 2-centesimi stamp being similar excepting that the words PERIODICI FRANCHI are below instead of above, and is impressed vermilion.

There exists another of similar design to these latter PERIODICI FRANCHI stamps, but reading STAMPATI FRANCHI above, the name of the town whence issued below, and the date in the centre. These were impressed in red on the newspapers presented to the post-office, without having had the previously-mentioned stamps impressed thereon. These are now obsolete.

SAXONY.—There will be found a well-executed stamp for this country of the following design :—

Crowned square shield of arms, with value on ribbon dependent from the top corners of the shield. Black impression; upright.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ neu groschen.

TURKEY.—See vol. iv., page 73, of this magazine for a description of these, which are handstamped.

TUSCANY.—2 SOLDI BOLLO STRAORDINARIO PER LE POSTE, for franking journals coming from, or *via* Austria. This is fully described in vol. iv., page 9, of this magazine.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Collector's Guide. Newport, Rhode Island, U. S. : Stephen Gould.

THIS little magazine—one of the four-page genus—has reached its third number, under the intelligent management of a 'senior' and an 'assistant' editor. We regret, however, to observe that it is about to lose the services of the latter, and trust its usefulness will not be thereby impaired. It aims at affording information to all classes of collectors, and not to philatelists alone. For this purpose, says the publisher, 'we have engaged the services of a geologist, who will furnish us a series of papers, beginning with our August number. An ichthyologist and herpetologist have kindly volunteered their services. Our

taxidermist will furnish us with full directions for the preservation of specimens to accompany each of the above articles.'

In addition, 'an old and experienced oologist' writes an article concerning his profession; the stamp department is 'under the personal supervision of the senior editor,' and altogether 'our editorial corps contains an unusual array of talent and experience.' Hitherto, the oological articles have, with the 'editorials,' occupied most of the space, so that we are not in a position to judge of the merits of this journal as a stamp publication; but we do not doubt that with such geological, oological, ichthyological, herpetological, and general natural historical attractions, it will achieve the success it deserves.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

UNITED STATES.—There is about to be issued a new 15 c. envelope, to be a companion to the adhesive of that value. It will have the head of Lincoln in a circle, and will be printed in black.—*The Postman's Knock.*

MONETARY INFORMATION.—A Moldo-Wallachian piastre of 40 paras is worth 4d.; a Turkish piastre, 2½d.; and an Egyptian piastre one-sixth more than a Turkish, or about 3d. A Brazilian milreis is worth 2 3, and a Portuguese milreis 4 6.

THE LA GUAIRA STAMPS.—The government of Venezuela gave the contract for the conveyance of the mails between La Guaira (the seaport of the Venezuelan capital, Caracas), Porto Cabello, and the West Indian island, St. Thomas, to Captain Robert Todd. This gentleman transferred his right, to a resident at Curacao, who caused a ship to be built in England for the purpose of carrying the letters, and called it the 'Robert Todd.' The stamps first issued were also made in this country by Waterlow & Sons, and serve to prepay the postage from La Guaira to St. Thomas. The stamps with value in centavos were probably manufactured on the island last named, and are intended to frank letters and newspapers from thence to the Venezuelan ports. As all the above are emitted by the special authority of the state, they may justly be considered a government issue. In the island of St. Thomas they are known as the 'Robert Todd' stamps.—*Gray's Catalogue, Fourth Edition.*

'THE HEIGHT OF MEANNESS' is exemplified by certain persons who have sent to us for stamps on approval and returned them to us unpaid—leaving us the disagreeable alternatives of losing our stamps or paying postage on them. The man who would do such a thing would suck the eggs from under a sitting hen. Such a man reminds us of the miserly character who would not allow a person to sit down on his stone steps for fear they would wear them out—also, of the individual who used to save his toe-nail parings and boil them for oil. If a certain gentleman living in Chicago does not take the above very delicate hint and send us what it cost us to take his letter out of the office we will unhesitatingly print his name next month. The person of whom we speak had the audacity besides to send us a letter to give to a person whom he

dare not offend—absolutely making us foot up other people's postage. The sum involved is small, but the impudence is unbearable.—*Postman's Knock.* [We hope the Chicago gentleman, if he was not annihilated by this cutting satire, had the good sense to 'foot up' immediately.]

THE INDIAN POSTAL SERVICE.—The post-office in India is progressing favourably, but it is supposed, and 'not without reason,' says the director-general, that an unpaid letter is more secure and more speedily delivered than one which is paid. The postal regulation appears to be that unpaid letters must be delivered or brought back to the post-office, as the postage must be accounted for by the postman; but with regard to stamped letters, even if a complaint should be made of their non-delivery, the posting, transit, and receipt of the same can never be traced. Being thus driven to defend themselves from a system which taxes them with double postage, the people of India have resorted to an expedient well known in England in the days of dear postage. They send their letters unpaid, and put *outside* some recognisable marks conveying the required intelligence; the receiver of the letter sees at a glance all he wishes to know, and declines to accept the letter. 200,000 were thus refused in 1860-61, and could not be disposed of by a return to the sender. In these matters the hand of the postal reformer is urgently required.

THE BATON ROUGE STAMP.—Most of our readers remember seeing, a few months ago, a small, neat, unpretending stamp, nearly square, with a pink border running round, in the inside of which were the words P. O. at the top, J. McCORMICK below, and BATON ROUGE and 5 in the centre, the whole resting upon a ground formed by green spots. The origin of this label or card is as follows:—In the year 1862, that portion of the inhabitants of the 'sunny south,' whose lot it was to reside in the city of Baton Rouge, became suddenly short of that very needful article—small change. Mr. McCormick, who was postmaster at this time, conceived the notion that he might remedy this nuisance; this he tried to do in the shape of the stamp we are now describing. It was used, *not* for postage, but for the sole purpose of making change. Every merchant in the city had them by him, and no doubt they were in reality a great inconvenience. But, alas! one fine day the Union forces entered the town, and immediately on their arrival 'did away' with the stamps, not in a manner altogether relished by timbrophilists, and now these labels may be regarded as things of the past. It is exceedingly difficult to procure the genuine even in Baton Rouge itself. Mr. McCormick still lives in the town, but is no longer postmaster.—*Stamp-Collector's Monthly Gazette.*

A GLANCE AT BOMBA.—I can scarcely hear myself speak. Stop! An additional bustle behind and a subdued murmur indicates the approach of the king—out on one of his morning drives—the excellent king Bomba, whom we have read of in Gladstone, and in the *Times*. See how he whisks past in his mail phaeton, driving a pair of blood horses, which I should say were of English breed. On either side of him ride his aides-de-camp—young men of noble family, conspicuous by their blue uniforms and cocked hats. As far as one can judge of the king himself, in his sitting posture, he appears to be a man above the average height, and with something more than an inclination to corpulency. His countenance is of that swarthy hue common to the inhabitants of a warm clime; and if it be not blasphemous to speak in such light terms of an anointed monarch, I should say that his nose was of the order 'snub.' Do not those features bear the impress of weakness rather than cruelty?

They convey to my mind the idea of a Louis the thirteenth, rather than of a Harry the eighth. Never mind; be he good, bad, or indifferent, one has seen a king; and that consideration is generally sufficient to cheer the spirits of a Briton.—*Household Words.*

OBITUARY.

We cannot but take this opportunity of offering a few remarks, tributary to the memory of the Rev. Francis John Stainforth, Perpetual Curate of Allhallows, who has recently departed from among us, at an advanced age, after upwards of a twelvemonth's intense suffering. By all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, he was esteemed, and will be deeply regretted for his invariable kindness, liberality, fund of information, and amiability of temper. In the early days of stamp-collecting, in London, he was one of its most zealous promoters, assisting the movement by his well-known readiness to bid high for any and every real or supposed rarity. Utterly devoid of guile himself, he frequently became the prey of much younger, but more worldly-wise heads. His rich and varied collection was ever accessible for comparison or reference, and our earliest catalogue was principally indebted to it for all the attainable correctness possible in the then infantile condition of philately. Some eighteen months previous to his decease, the long-cherished album of this worthy embodiment of christian and gentleman, passed from his hands, and enriched with the choicest pick of its contents, what has now become the most valuable collection of postage stamps in the world.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE BLOCK-LETTER MONTEVIDEO.

To the Editor of 'THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—In confirmation of the opinion I expressed in my article on the stamps of Montevideo, that the block-letter series was issued in 1859, allow me to state that a genuine specimen of the 120 reis which I lately had the pleasure of examining, was cancelled with the usual oval postmark containing the inscription—ADMON DE CORREOS MONTEVIDEO, and the date 25 AGOSTO [August], 1859.

Yours respectfully,
OVERY TAYLOR.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (COMMONLY KNOWN AS HAITIAN) STAMPS.

To the Editor of 'THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—Will you allow me to correct a slight error which has (very excusably) crept into the pages of your invaluable magazine. So little is generally known in this country with respect to the political affairs of the island of Haiti, that the following particulars will doubtless be acceptable to your readers, the lately-issued stamps having been ascribed to a wrong locality, from want of correct information on the subject. The island of Haiti of the present day is governed by two republics, their boundaries dividing it into unequal portions. The smaller, or western portion of the island, forms the Republic of Haiti, capital Port-au-Prince; the larger, or eastern portion, is known as the Dominican Republic, having for its capital the city of San Domingo. Previous to the year 1803 the island was a French colony; but it then gained its independence, and frequent political changes converted it into an empire, republic, kingdom, and republic again, successively, until 1843, when a revolution broke out, the President, General

Boyer, was deposed, and the eastern portion was declared a separate government. Each Republic has its distinctive features, inasmuch as the French language is spoken, and French currency adopted, in that of Haiti, while in the Dominican everything is Spanish; consequently the stamps themselves will decide the question from which of the two they really emanate. M. Moens in *Le Timbre-Poste* attributes these stamps to their true source. The present president of the Dominican Republic is General Baz, who was elected to that office some ten months since.

Very respectfully yours,

London.

THOMAS WILLIAM KITT.

TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING.

To the Editor of the 'STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Between 'M. E.' and 'Fentonia' I am somewhat in the position of that redoubtable Turk of whose two wives one employed herself in pulling out the black hairs of his beard, and the other in pulling out the white—between them he had none left. 'M. E.' brings evidence in favour of parcel stamps, and 'Fentonia' argues for varieties in perforation. To the former correspondent I have but to reply that even granting that his memory, which he does not greatly trust, is correct respecting the transaction he relates, it offers no justification of the collection of parcel labels in general. We might as well collect all kinds of commercial labels, because one or two, such as the Berne or the Jamaica, have once in a way been used as postage stamps.

'Fentonia' commences his argument by an attempted refutation of the proverb which I quoted—'There is a medium in all things.' He says that the *via media* is a road only to be found in Utopia. But surely it is possible to eat without gluttonizing, to speak above a whisper and below a roar, to dress tastefully without going to the extreme of fashion, to do a thousand other acts with moderation. And I maintain that it is possible to take great interest in stamps without pushing the study to an extreme, which, with all respect to 'Fentonia,' I must denominate absurd.

I think if 'Fentonia' will have the goodness to re-peruse my letter, he will find evidence that I am not of that class which 'selects its stamps by the face only.' I expressly stated that I considered watermarks afforded in many cases a means of distinguishing between different issues; and that I thought it was not going too far to include perforated and unperforated varieties. The assumption, moreover, that I should consider amateurs of 'the French school' very shallow in studying the peculiarities of stamps, their history, date, formation, and usual term of existence, is gratuitous, and quite unsupported by any remark contained in my letter. I have been a student of these interesting particulars from no recent date, and I fully appreciate their value; but I take my stand on the inutility of distinguishing between varieties of perforation, and varieties of paper; and I cannot see that the generalities in which 'Fentonia' indulged are of any weight in justification of the collection of such varieties.

However, heartily endorsing 'Fentonia's' opinion that 'philately is as reasonable and as sensible a pursuit as most of those in vogue to fill up intervals of leisure not demanded by actual duties.'

I am Sir, yours respectfully,

SENTINEL.

W'eston-super-Mare.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. H. CROSSKEY.—The stamps you were good enough to send are described in the 'Newly-issued' article of the present number.—The 20 c. lilac, though of the type now used in Cuba, is employed in Spain only where it superseded the 20 c. *d'esc.*, issued at the commencement of the present year.

W. K., Chelsea.—Thirty-three varieties of English stamps are mentioned in the new edition of Dr. Gray's Catalogue.—There is no such stamp as the 'Pacific ocean,' but there is a series issued by the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, consisting of two values, 1 rl. and 2 rls., printed respectively in four and in five colours.

X. E. Brook, St. John's Wood.—Three works have been published on forged stamps—Pemberton's, which appeared about four years since, and Dalston's and Stourton's both of which came out in 1865. We should recommend you to obtain them both.—Oppen's album has been brought down to the most recent date, and is the cheapest.—We consider perforated and unperforated stamps are distinct varieties. Spaces are given for both in Moens' album.—We have never seen a bistre 2 s. gr. Prussian eagle oval.—Lallier was in error in inserting the stamps issued by Messrs. Stafford Smith & Smith on the East Indian page. They consist respectively of the 1d. and 2d. English envelope stamps, encircled by a band bearing the name and address of the issuing firm, and were used by it indifferently for home and foreign letters.

VENETIAN.—The $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese (cross in centre) sells for about a guinea; the two rare Cape of Good Hope blocks are priceless.

A. COOGAN—was informed by a friend resident in Brazil that the portrait on the 20 and 200 reis is that of the Emperor's late father, Don Pedro I., who was the first emperor, and thus seems a very probable explanation.

R. T. L., Liverpool.—The statement in our last month's 'Answers,' that the Don Luis series of Portuguese stamps was issued in 1855, is incorrect. We intended to have said *Don Pedro*, and are obliged by your correction.

FOREIGN STAMPS.—New editions of Oppen's album are published, we presume, upon the exhaustion of the former editions. The latest contains spaces for most of the new stamps issued up to the date of publication, and loose leaves, ruled for issues which have since appeared, are sold by the publisher.

TYRO, Aekworth.—The first stamps you name, inscribed MEDIO REALE and PAQUETE, is, as appears by the marginal inscription, issued for service between La Guaira, Porto Cabello, and St. Thomas. It is a local stamp issued by authority of the Venezuela government. The second stamp is an Austrian newspaper.

DUDLEY, London.—adds to the list of English locals the following:—Great Eastern Railway (unperforated), 1d. red, value in blue on white paper, 1½d. lilac, value in blue on white paper; Great Northern Railway (perforated), large stamp, GREAT NORTHERN in scroll above, RAILWAY below, armorial bearings in centre, disfigured by numeral of value, number of newspapers above, 1½d. (three newspapers) brick-red, 2d. (four newspapers) blue.—The Canada Grand Trunk Railway stamp is a fraudulent imposition.

ORIENTAL, Wigan.—The large-letter 9d. English is now in circulation, and was described at page 36 of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for the current year. It is of the same shade as its predecessor.

ON THE MODES OF ENGRAVING & PRINTING USED FOR POSTAGE STAMPS.*

(Continued from page 147).

SUNKEN engraving, or that where the design is cut into the surface, is much more ancient than cameo-engraving; but it was not till about 1450 that chance induced the discovery of the method of taking off impressions from engraved plates which had been primarily destined for the ornamentation of some pieces of goldsmith's work, or choice furniture.

Some such legendary story as the following attributes the discovery in question to a Florentine goldsmith, Maso Finiguerra by name: a pile of linen was carelessly placed upon a metal plate, the engraved parts of which had been filled with a sort of thick greasy ink for the purpose of rendering the pattern more visible to the engraver, by preventing any reflection during the employment of the proper utensils. The linen received an impression from the wet ink, and the pattern was taken off on a shirt or handkerchief! This piece of linen, spoiled for its legitimate purpose, was the first proof in *taille-douce*. The story does not add whether this same linen, having first become rags and then paper, received in the latter state a more correct proof of the image which it had been in such a hurry to appropriate to itself. This accident gave the Florentine goldsmith the idea of repeating the inking operation, and taking off impressions by means of rubbing or a gentle use of the hammer. Those thus obtained are called *niello* proofs. The Imperial Library of Paris possesses some valuable specimens of this art, dating from the 15th century.

Up to the present time engravers of gun-work or goldsmith's-work take proofs or impressions of their designs in the self-same manner.

Taille-douce engraving—or taking off impressions in *taille-douce*—once discovered, a crowd of the engravers of that epoch employed the new method for the repro-

duction of their designs by means of the cylinder-press, an invention which must have closely followed the discovery of Maso Finiguerra.

The early engravers in *taille-douce* commenced with the production of master-pieces of engraving in metals; which proves that they executed the engraving as a separate work, and then thought of printing off an impression to see the result. The fact that many of these artists were goldsmiths justifies this supposition.

I think our readers will be glad to have the names of some of that illustrious phalaxy of artists of the 15th and 16th centuries mentioned. They are Martin Schoengauer, 1440 to 1480; Israël van Mecken, 1497; Albert Durer, 1500; Albert Class, 1520; Albert Altdorfer; Barthélemy Beham; Jacques Bink; Daniel Hopfer; Virgilius Solis; Henri Altegreaever; Hans Sebald Beham; Georges Poncez; Pierre Floetner; Hans Neudorfer; Lucas de Leyde; Cornelius Bos; Baltazar Silvius; Hans Vredemann; Vriese; Crispin de Passe; Adrien and Jean Collaert; Jean and Jerome Wierix; Nicolas de Bruyn; Zoan Andrea; Augustin Venitien; Enèe Vico; Polidore de Coldora; Ducerceau; Woeriot; Etienne de Laune; Rènè Boyvin; and a host of others whose monograms alone have reached us, as well as some known only by their productions.

In its infancy, intaglio-engraving was done by means of the engraver's *burin* alone; that is to say, on a plate of polished pewter or copper was slightly traced with its point the principal outlines of the pattern destined to be engraved. This first work served for the artist's sketch; and first the outlines, afterwards the shadows were then more correctly and more deeply hollowed out by the *burin*.

Some time after, engraving by means of *aqua fortis* came into vogue. Its invention is attributed to Wincelas d'Olmütz, towards the close of the 15th century.

Engraving by aid of *aqua fortis* is managed by covering a warmed plate of copper with a layer of varnish composed of a mixture of bitumen and wax. On this, with a steel pointer are traced the proposed

* We are indebted for this and the preceding article on the same subject to Mons. M. Riester, artist, designer, and engraver, of Paris.

outline and its shadows, so that the surface of the plate is left bare in those parts. When this design is finished, the plate is surrounded by a border or rampart of wax, and into the receptacle thus formed on the plate is poured a mixture of *aqua fortis* with two-thirds of water. This is called azotic acid. The effect of this acid is to corrode the copper in the places which the engraver has laid bare, the part of the metal protected by the varnish remaining intact. During the action of the *aqua fortis* the small globules which form on the plate are brushed away with a feather or soft painting brush, to ensure a greater regularity in the corrosion. When the engraving is judged to have sufficient depth, the acid, which may be made use of again and again, is poured away; and the plate is fully exposed by washing off the varnish with turpentine.

It may be apprehended that an engraving by *aqua fortis* is susceptible of a peculiarly high finish, there being now nothing left to be done than deepening those traceries which are to be darkest by means of the *burin*. This operation is seldom omitted by engravers of the present day.

This process—so simple, and, compared with the exclusive labour of the *burin*, so expeditious—was, nevertheless, little employed during the early half of the 16th century. Some engravings, however, of Albert Durer's are known to have been effected by *aqua fortis* on an iron plate; which proves that at that epoch the idea of engraving on some metal harder than copper had been thought about. At present all engravings of which a large number must be worked off are done on steel.

The eighteenth and nineteenth centuries have furnished artists with a crowd of processes and implements whose employment produces very various results. We shall specify those utilized in the engraving of postage stamps only: among them are the machine for making uniform tints by means of parallel lines; and that for engine-turning, to produce ornamental groundwork, such as that of the new Brazil 200 cents, or the English penny and twopenny stamps. The

backgrounds made by these machines are so perfect, that no human hand could counterfeit their regularity.

Engraving in *taille-douce* is at present the most perfect kind; by its means the most effective shadows, as well as the most delicate touches, are most readily managed. It would be more frequently employed for the illustrations of books, did time and expense allow.

Impressions from *taille-douce*, or sunken *intaglio* engraving, are taken in the following manner. The plate is covered with ink of a uniform consistency, which is carefully disposed into all the hollows on the plate by means of a brush or damper. This inking process must be managed after the plate has been raised to a certain heat, which is usually effected by means of charcoal. When the engraved lines on the plate are deemed sufficiently filled with the ink, the surface is wiped clean with a dry rag, and afterwards with another saturated with a weak mixture of aqua-fortis and water, for the purpose of removing the slightest remains of ink from the polished surface of the plate. The steel or copper thus prepared is placed on a wooden board; on the side engraved, is then laid a sheet of paper, moistened on the side destined to receive the imprint. On this paper are then laid one or more pieces of some woollen material folded, and the whole is passed between a pair of cylindrical rollers in a press. In this way the ink contained in the hollow places of the engraved plate is almost entirely absorbed by the paper. The deeper the hollows are, the more ink they contain; and this explains those strikingly-intense shadows which can be produced by no other method of engraving. The slightest scratch being reproduced on the proof, an idea is easily formed of the extreme delicacy attained by means of this process. The manipulation requisite during the process of engraving, is sufficient explanation why it is more specially reserved for artistic works. In this category may be ranked the stamps of certain countries, as the penny and twopenny, and the legal and commercial stamps of Great Britain, those of the United States, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Nicaragua, &c.

Some countries—New South Wales, the

Mauritius, the Philippines—at first emitted stamps printed off from the original matrix; the plate was composed of as many separate engravings as the sheet was to contain stamps, hence arose slight discrepancies in the several dies, a rapid wear and tear of the plate employed, and the greatest difficulty in official authentication.

We are about to try and give an idea of the principle which permits the indefinite reproduction of the same identical design. The first type is engraved on a steel block which is not hardened until after the engraving is completed. From this block, by use of the press, is taken off an impression on a block of soft steel, which, in like manner, is hardened afterwards. This latter is obviously a cameo impression of the original die, and on it are reproduced in relief all the indentations of the former. This is fitted into a frame as often as required, and from it are made as many duplicates of the first die as may be wanted, in just the same way as die No. 2 was made from die No. 1. In consequence of this process, it is easily understood how other plates can be successively made from the original without sensibly deteriorating the type.

In lieu of using the die or plate in its flat state, if it were formed as a cylinder, stamps might be printed off in the same way as the patterns on linen. This latter idea is a supposition of my own; but modern industry manages so cleverly as to virtually scratch the word *impossible* out of all dictionaries.

MALTA STAMPS.

BY A MALTESE COLLECTOR.

SMALL as is the interest evinced by the generality of stamp collectors, and insignificant as in reality is the place accorded in the postage-stamp albums to the Malta halfpenny stamp, bearing like many other colonials the pleasing effigy of the gentle ruler of the British empire, still a few notes on this little-known stamp may not be out of place here, or devoid of attraction to the members of the philatelic world.

Although no varieties of this solitary stamp appear to exist to a casual observer or superficial collector—who, happy

and contented in possessing a few specimens of the stamps of each country, cares little for difference and shade of colour, quality and tint of paper, watermarks, silk threads, or perforations—still, to the patient and observant timbrophilist, who devotes much of his time to fathoming and unravelling the still-existing mysteries and doubts of this amusing and very attractive pursuit, several points of striking difference are quite evident to him. In M. Lallier's album, fifth edition, three places are now allowed for the Malta stamp, with erroneous and unintelligible explanations. If my kind readers are, however, disposed to accompany me, I shall prove to them, from authentic sources, that there exist *four* distinct sorts of the halfpenny which deserve a separate classification in a postage-stamp album. The authentic sources I am speaking of consist in several inquiries made at the local post-office here, in information gathered from first-rate native collectors, and, above all, in the evidence of unused specimens existing in my collection, and those of my friends, which leave no doubt as to the veracity of the following facts.

It was in the early part of 1860, during the administration of Governor Sir G. Le Marchant, that it was resolved by the Council of Government, to introduce a local stamp, which was deemed necessary for the increasing daily correspondence between the islands of Malta and Gozo and the thickly-inhabited villages of the former. The well-known firm of De la Rue & Co. was entrusted with its manufacture. In December, 1860 * (the financial year at Malta beginning this month), the first issue of this stamp was circulated in the island. The stamp displayed the Queen's head, diademed on an octagonal shield, surrounded by olive leaves, printed on white paper, colour buff, without any watermark, and perforated.

The supply was exhausted in 1862, and another batch of stamps was received from England, amongst which it appears

* As per Government notice of the 10th November, 1860.

were found a few sheets of a bluish paper. Such specimens have now become extremely rare, and are very much sought after by French collectors. The one I possess, as also those I have seen in several collections here, and the few I have been able to get for a few friends of mine in Paris, leave no doubt as to the tint of the paper, which by some is erroneously attributed to the influence of the gum at the back of the stamp. Still the colour of the paper is not so deep as that of some of the early English red penny, the Ceylon sixpence, the New Zealand blue-paper series, the Nova Scotia penny, the early emissions of Mauritius, or the laureated heads of New South Wales, but it can match with the rose-coloured fourpenny English, and the four and eight annas of India, present issue.

When it was decided by the home authorities to watermark all the stamps of crown colonies with a crown and C C, the Malta stamp in due course underwent this change, and in 1863 a new emission was sent out with this watermark, every other point continuing the same.

Another twelvemonth had hardly elapsed, and the native timbrophilic community was gratified with a new supply; this time the colour of the stamp was changed into a beautiful orange, with the same watermark. These stamps are the best that have as yet been circulated in the island, their bright colour bringing out the beauties of the engraving. They have now become rare here, for this appears to have been a mistake on the part of the printers. Shortly afterwards, another quantity of stamps arrived from the mother country; the former colour buff, which I may rather style dirty or faded buff, on a very thin paper, was resorted to. This is the current stamp now; a worse shade of colour could never have been chosen, rendering it the ugliest stamp of the British colonies.

From what has been shown, four varieties of the Malta halfpenny stamp can therefore, without any exaggeration, be distinctly classed, namely—

1st. 1860 & 1861. White paper, colour

buff, without watermark. 2nd. 1862. Bluish paper, colour buff, without watermark. 3rd. 1863. White paper, colour faded buff, with watermark. 4th. 1864. White paper, colour orange, with watermark: all perforated.

These facts, and the information already imparted to M. Lallier by a brother collector of mine, will perhaps induce that gentleman and editors of other postage-stamp albums to accord a proper place for, and introduce correct and clear explanations of, the Malta stamp, the noted varieties of which are, in my estimation, more reasonable and justifiable than several trifling and inconsequential nonentities so strongly supported and so much admired by the bulk of French collectors; although by many English philatelists they are ascribed to the daily increasing 'hobby of the French school.'

J. S.

FRANKS AND FRANKING.

AMONGST the various conditions and means through which the postal administrations of many countries allow their officials to convey letters to their destinations free of charge, is the one which partly gives its name to this article.

Franks were instituted in England under the Commonwealth, about the year 1649, at which time the postal service first became an established and regular institution. The privilege of sending letters, &c., free by post was then given to members of Parliament, and was afterwards extended to peers, bishops, and government officials, who by simply affixing to their letters their names and the date and name of the place from whence sent, thus franked them. Franks therefore are not only interesting to philatelists as instances of a peculiarity of the postal service, but also to autograph collectors, because they are often found bearing the signatures of eminent or noted men.

This privilege afterwards became much abused. Sometimes the franking signatures were written on both sides of the cover, so that by reversing it an answer

could be returned to the original sender free of cost; and not unfrequently M.P.'s gave to their friends and dependents blank covers, simply signed with their names. Thus, in course of time not only did franks become articles of sale, but signatures were actually forged to letters. These abuses became so scandalous and caused such losses to the Treasury (amounting to about £170,000 in 1760), that in 1795, and even before that time, great restrictions were imposed on their use; and on the introduction of the penny postal system in 1840 franks were finally abolished, except for petitions and addresses to Her Majesty, and petitions to either House of Parliament, sent to members, provided they do not weigh more than two pounds and are open at their ends. No letter or enclosure is allowed to be sent with them.

At first the post-office did not show by any marks impressed upon the letters so franked that they had passed through its hands; but soon this fact was shown by printing upon them with a hand-stamp, generally in red, the date of posting, the word FREE, and sometimes an official letter or mark; the whole disposed in three or four lines enclosed in frames of various patterns, generally bearing the crown, in their upper parts. Some of these frames are found to be a single circular line of large diameter, enclosing the crown, as well as the date and words before named; others smaller, with the crown above the circle; others similar to the last, but with double-lined circular frame; and others, again, shield-shaped, or irregular in outline. One is without the crown, and consists of three concentric circles; in the centre one is a figure, between that and the next is the date, and between the outer ones the word FREE and P.; this is dated 1791. At first sight these marks appear to have been impressed before the address was written on the letter, but an examination will show that the red ink has either not taken where it comes over the writing, or else that the writing ink has overcome the colour of the printing ink.

At the present day, with the exceptions

named above, governmental or postal officials alone have the power of franking; and the privilege is limited to those letters which are properly on business connected with their departments. So, for example, we find the war-office letters franked by the hand-stamped fac-simile signature:—E. LUGARD, WAR OFFICE, in an oval, the words ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE being also on the letter.

The post-office departments frank their letters in the same manner; thus the Post-office Savings' Bank uses the hand-stamped signature of W. MILLIKEN, and the letters O. H. M. S., and G. P. O., or the words in full. Letters sent to some of the departments of the post-office, if on business connected therewith, also go free.

The admiralty uses a rather more tasteful and appropriate design than that of the simple hand-stamped signatures of the other departments, being, in the example now before us, an anchor surrounded by two concentric circular lines, between which are the words ACCOUNTANT GENERAL OF THE NAVY, ADMIRALTY, hand-stamped in blue. The seal is also an anchor, but enclosed in an oval garter, which bears SIGIL. OFFI. MAG. ADMIR., MAG. BR., &c., embossed white on blue. On the flaps of some of the envelopes issued by offices thus franking their letters are to be found the representations of the royal arms, embossed oftentimes in colour but sometimes plain, either with or without the name of the office from whence issued. The post-office marks the receipt of the franked letters by a hand-stamped circle containing the words OFFICIAL-PAID, and the date and name of town, printed in red.

Some, if not all, of the colonies of England have also their official franks: thus we find the government departments of Victoria have their frank stamps, as enumerated in the last volume of this magazine. The government of New Zealand also franks its official letters even to England: these however approximate to the original English franks, inasmuch as they bear in the examples now before us the autograph signature of the superintendent of the province of Wellington,

1. E. FEATHERSTONE, beneath the words, ON PUBLIC SERVICE ONLY, either printed or written on the envelope.

The Western Australian stamps also with perforations in centre are it appears those used by the officials, and thus distinguished from those supplied to the public. All the stamps of the present design, except the penny black, we have seen with a hole in the centre, and also the fourpenny octagonal blue; but we do not remember to have met with the brick-red twopenny, bronze sixpenny, or brown shilling, thus marked. Judging from the number of cancelled perforated stamps which are found in this country (they are almost as common as the ordinary varieties), there must be a considerable correspondence carried on by the Swan River staff, or, as was formerly supposed, by the convicts.

We find franks in use also among the continental governments. In Spain the members of the Cortes use the stamps described on page 57 of this volume: the well-known official labels should, I think, be included in this category. The Bremen postal administration employs the label figured on page 105 of this volume.

[The money-order official stamp is a large-sized oblong adhesive perforated label, having the royal arms embossed white on a rich deep-blue ground in an oval; inscribed GENERAL POST OFFICE ABOVE, MONEY ORDER OFFICE below. This is, we believe, the only official adhesive stamp.—Ed.]

RETURNED LETTER STAMPS.

BY FENTONIA.

IN the preface to the fifth edition of his catalogue, Mount Brown says, 'there is great doubt whether the so-called returned letter label is a postage stamp at all, and it has consequently not been admitted into the present catalogue.' This paragraph of course relates to Wurtemberg, though an inexperienced reader would be puzzled to make out the allusion.

Subsequent information completely confirms Mount Brown's doubts. The pseudo Wurtemberg stamp (an engraving of which is given vol. iii., p. 25) is neither more nor less than the mark of the office to

which letters are consigned whose owners cannot be found, and has no more right in a collection than the handsome impression which is stamped on the flap of the envelope in which unclaimed letters are returned to the writers by our own dead-letter office, which in design it very much resembles, though differing much in appearance, the latter being embossed white on scarlet. In both, the royal arms are in an oval, surmounted by a crown, and both are without supporters. The legend round the English arms is GENERAL POST OFFICE, RETURNED LETTER BRANCH. That round the Wurtemberg arms is COMMISSION FÜR RETOURBRIEF. And it is this word *commission*, which looks so thoroughly English, that has probably misled collectors. We used to think it meant commission or extra charge for the letter returned; but on consulting a German dictionary we find that *commission* really means a public office, and that the inscription should be translated RETURNED LETTER OFFICE. This explains why the editor could not purchase any of these stamps when travelling in Wurtemberg, without a special order to that effect. What little satisfaction might be felt in the possession of this stamp (such as it is) has however long since been crushed by Mr. Pemberton's sweeping assertion at p. 7 of last year's magazine that 'nearly every specimen in English collections is forged.' Hitherto, only the *returned stamp* of Wurtemberg was known to collectors, but during the past year Oldenburg, Munich, Bamberg, and (only a few months before annexation to Prussia) Hanover, have each (or private speculators for them) issued a returned letter envelope. The Hanoverian stamps having, by a Prussian decree dated 18th August, 1866, been suppressed, of course this with the rest must have become obsolete. These so-called stamps are in some, we believe in all, cases impressed on the flap of the envelope, as in England, and do not in any way free the postage, which is charged to the receiver on delivery. We think we have heard, but are not quite certain, that each local post-office is furnished with a supply of these envelopes in which to enclose

rejected letters to the chief office in order that they may be thence officially returned to their respective writers. In this limited sense it may be said that they do under certain conditions frank letters.

And here it may not be out of place to add a few words on those rectangles embossed with the Scotch cross, which in the dark ages of stamp collecting were called 'Austrian return stamps.' They are met with coloured on white ground, corresponding with the 'arms' series of 1851, and white cross on coloured ground, corresponding with the 'head' series of 1858. It was not long however before Berger Levrault having described them in his German catalogue as *Ergänzung* stamps, they received the English name of *complementary*. But then the question arose, complementary of what? Of deficient postage, was the ingenious suggestion. Further research however dissipated this notion. We were again at sea without helm or rudder. In this dilemma M. Moens comes to the rescue, by publishing in May, 1864, a letter from Vienna, in which it is stated that these intruders were no better than waste paper, resulting from the fact that each sheet of stamps was printed in eight rows of eight stamps each; but as the price was to be 60 *kreuzer* stamps to the florin, there were four blanks left to the caprice of the printer. This theory accounts for the yellow and orange Scotch crosses appended to the 1 *krenzer* stamps, but does not explain why the Scotch cross should be found in every colour in which the higher values of Austrian stamps were printed. Again, to say the least, it was a very bungling mode of proceeding, excusable only in a first issue, and it requires some explanation why the blunder was again perpetrated seven years after in a second issue, when no pains seems to have been spared in producing elaborate designs. To our simple mind six rows of ten each, or five rows of twelve each, would have been preferable. We should like to know how many rows and stamps form an Austrian sheet of the present issue.

Again, in our own collection the blue

and the brown (and most likely the others are the same) form a series of five varieties (not four, as the vacancies require), viz., plain, with one dot, with two dots, with three dots, with four dots. These dots have before been inquired after, but never satisfactorily explained. If therefore letters have ever been returned with these crosses affixed, it must have been with the intimation that they were no stamps at all, and with the request that the proper stamps might be forthwith substituted.

NEW FORGERIES.

ABOUT the middle of October a considerable number of what were called the first issue of Natal were offered for sale, and with them a quantity of so-called proofs or essays of the ninepence of that issue. These latter stamps are chiefly struck on tissue paper, in black, lilac, magenta, and other colours.

The whole, both stamps and proofs, are ungummed, and are on paper differing materially from that used for those actually issued. At first sight, and before comparing them with the genuine issue, we were disposed to think them reprints from the old plates; but on placing them in juxtaposition with undoubted ancient copies, we at once discovered that these newcomers (both stamps and essays) are forgeries. The ninepence, which is offered very freely and at high prices, differs both in the wreath and in the space in which the letters *v. r.* are embossed—clearly evidencing two dies, which at once decides these to be impostors.

Whoever is interested in foisting these pretenders on the public does not scruple to offer warranties and guarantees of genuineness and that the examples are not reprints; but after accurately examining them, we must definitely pronounce these as impudent and dangerous forgeries as we ever met with.

We have also to chronicle a forgery of a less dangerous but not less specious character—of the old blue 120 c. of Montevideo (double figures), and of the blue 60 c. *diligencia*.

These specimens are of a dull-slate, rather than blue, and very materially differ from the genuine stamps, *e. g.*, the rays round the sun in the 120 c. are regularly indented, and the dots in the left-hand border are differently placed; while in the 60 c. diligencia the figures 60 are larger, and the rays round the sun run into the border, and are larger than in the genuine stamp. There are many other points of difference, but the above will suffice to put our readers on their guard.

We cannot too strongly advise our friends, whenever a rare stamp is offered them, to compare it with a genuine copy if accessible, or with a specimen of the same issue, or at least to take the opinion of some competent judge.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

THE close of the year is an unfavourable season for the emission of novelties. As a rule those only appear now which are for some reason urgently required. The issue of complete series of new stamps is deferred until the beginning of next year, and thus our bill of fare this month will not contain anything very striking.

PRUSSIA.—Waifs and strays connected with the late war continue to come under our notice. The stamp of which we annex a representation is the last arrival. It appears that every soldier had the right of sending home news to his friends and relatives, gratuitously. His letters were, how-



ever, required to be enclosed, *not* as originally supposed in the *feld-post* envelopes, the true use of which has been explained, but in envelopes bearing a stamp similar to the above, and they were then transmitted through the agency of the field-post office.

OLDENBURG.—From Oldenburg we have information that a field-post envelope, equal in plainness to the Prussian, was issued for this duchy during the late war.

THURN & TAXIS, NORTH.—The envelopes, $\frac{1}{2}$ silber groschen value, which we last purchased at one of the offices of this post, are reddish-yellow.

VENETIA.—Notwithstanding their having been already noticed, in our correspondence department, in the month of August, it may be advisable to re-mention here the appearance of the 2 soldi yellow, 3 soldi green, and 15 soldi blue, type of 1861. They have been catalogued, by anticipation, both by English and continental writers, but never did duty, simply because the previous batch in similar values were not exhausted when the imperial arms were substituted for the imperial head. These resuscitations, consequently, must not be disregarded by the fastidious as mere essays, being veritable postage stamps in the enjoyment of a sinecure.

REPUBLIC OF ST. DOMINGO.—We learn, with some surprise, from a continental contemporary, that this republic has been possessed of stamps ever since 1862. The discovery was announced by M. Rondot, in the *Magasin Pittoresque*. The stamp issued in the above-named year, is, as will be seen on reference to the an-



nexed illustration, almost identical with that which we chronicled in the spring of the year, the only difference being that the value is marked in italic instead of Roman letters, and the external line is straight, not sinuous. It is printed in black upon green paper.

BAVARIA.—Some months back we chronicled a returned-letter stamp for Munich specifically, in type and nature similar to the well-known, and once very *recherché* Wurtemberg impression. We have now to note, and portray, a specimen of the same character, issued for the town of Bamberg, so well known to tourists as possessing one of the finest cathedrals in Germany. Further description of the label is needless, the cut embodying all items, including colour.



FRANCE.—By recent postal regulations, the fee for transit of letters from France to

Belgium and Switzerland being reduced to 30 centimes, a stamp of that value, if not absolutely necessary, was thought convenient. This requirement, on New Year's day next, is proposed to be satisfied by the issue of a label which, we conclude, will follow the type of the current 2 c. and 4 c.; its colour will be brown. Another label, violet in hue, will bear the hitherto unrepresented high value of 5 francs, for foreign or heavy inland postage.

EAST INDIES—The provisional stamp figured in our October number, will, probably,



give place to another of the same new value, in type similar to that here depicted. De la Rue is as plainly written on its surface as if that name were visibly impressed. We wish that certainly

exquisitely neat designer were not so apparently prejudiced against the brilliant colours now in such general vogue. Perhaps he fancies the hue would kill the design—we think quite the contrary. The engraving sufficiently describes the stamp, colour excepted, which is that of our own shilling label.

SPAIN.—The stamp of which the subjoined is a representation is an ancient frank stamp used exclusively by members of the Spanish Cortes, or, to copy the inscription on the stamp itself,—Congress of Deputies. It resembles very closely that described and figured in our number for April last (which is the stamp now in use), but it is smaller; the inscription is differently placed, CORREO being above instead of below, and it is enclosed in a single instead of a double oval. The stamp from which our engraving is taken is postmarked MADRID, 22 JUNE, 1859.



type they will revert to that of 1864, with the necessary alteration of date, and that the colours and values of the new issue will be the same as those of the current Cuban—5 c. lilac, 10 c. blue, 20 c. green, and 40 c. rose. We give this report for what it is worth, but must confess that we very much question its correctness, implying as it does the suppression of the commonly-used 2 and 4 cuartos stamps, which could hardly be superseded except upon an entire reversion of the postal tariff.

MEXICO.—We present our readers this month, according to promise, with an engraving which pretty accurately reproduces the principal features of the new issue. We have now to add to the 7 c. brown and 25 c. orange mentioned last



month a 50 c. light and deep green of the same design. The latter is a splendid colour, but the impression on several specimens we have seen is blurred.

URUGUAY.—The rumour that the values of the 1864 series of stamps had been provisionally altered, in accordance with the new tariff, turns out to be better founded than we at first imagined: A correspondent favours us with a specimen of the pink, in which the original value—06—at each end of the word CENTESIMOS is obliterated by the hand-printed numeral 20 in black ink. This plan of alteration, carried out in the other values, resulted in the transformation of the—

12 c. blue into 5 c.

8 c. green „ 10 c.

10 c. yellow „ 15 c.

The existence of this provisional series was discredited, partly because it seemed unlikely that the authorities would change the value of the yellow from 10 c. to 15 c., and then change that of the 8 c. to 10 c.,—at first sight a foolish waste of labour. The explanation, however, probably lies in the fact that the new values by that means appeared in the colours in which it was decreed that they should be printed. The new type was not ready by the proper time—the first day of the present year—but stamps of the new

values, 5, 10, 15, and 20 c., on that day were, by this device, issued in the appointed colours—blue, green, yellow, and rose. Eight days is said to have been the period of circulation of this issue, the individuals comprising it will therefore, doubtless, be always rare.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—A correspondent at Port Elizabeth informs us that the four-penny blue of the present issue is 'extinct.' We have, however, received no confirmation of this statement from any other quarter, and are inclined to think he has been misinformed.

LONDON.—The Edinburgh and Leith Circular Delivery Company having, we presume, been found a successful speculation, its promoters have extended the field of their operations to London, their aim being to 'economise the labour and expense, besides securing the regular delivery of open circulars, pamphlets, &c., now so frequent and effective a medium of "door-to-door" advertising.' The prospectus of the London Circular and Pamphlet Delivery Company states that the 'Company will have an efficient staff of deliverers, supervised by inspectors.' In addition, and for the purpose we suppose of still further economising labour, the Company has issued two stamps, value respectively a farthing and a half-penny. The colour of the former is blue, of the latter mauve, and the design is the same in each—namely, a shield bearing the arms of the city of London, with scroll above and below, the upper inscribed LONDON, the lower CIRCULAR DELIVERY CO., and the value in an oblong label beneath, the whole on a lined and ornamented ground in a rectangular frame. They are printed on white paper, and perforated. As we understand that one of these stamps will be presented with the present number, our readers will have an opportunity from ocular inspection of judging what these stamps are like. For the information of our juvenile subscribers, we may add that the dagger in the left-hand upper corner of the shield commemorates the loyalty of Walworth, Lord Mayor of London, in Richard II.'s time, in striking down Wat Tyler when he threatened the king.

MECKLENBURG-SCHWERIN.—A stamp, identical in design with the 3 and 5 schg., value 2 schg., and colour lilac, has just been issued for this duchy. It is said that it will supersede in a great measure the well-known 4-4ths. An envelope of the new value, similar in design to those previously issued, has also been emitted, and of the same shade as its adhesive companion.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The obsolete nine-penny of this colony has just been provisionally re-issued, printed orange-red of a shade nearly approaching that of the current St. Lucia shilling, and with the original value cancelled by the word TENPENCE printed in roman capitals in deep-blue ink. The type employed for the impression of the new value is worn and battered, and the curve in which the letters are placed following the oval border is uneven, giving the inscription at a little distance the appearance of having been printed with a pen. The specimen before us is postmarked July 28, '66, and printed on white paper without perforation or watermark.

CANADIAN ENVELOPES ON BUFF PAPER.

WE have received two interesting letters bearing on the question of the genuineness of the above envelopes. The first is from the Deputy Postmaster-General of Canada, and was forwarded to us by Mr. J. M. Chute, of Boston, U. S.; the second is addressed to us by another American correspondent, 'L. H. B.,' of West Springfield, Massachusetts. They are as follows:—

Post-Office Department, Ottawa, 4th April, 1866.

Sir,—In reply to your note of the 29th ult., I beg to say that no alteration in the issue of Canadian postage stamps is at present under consideration.

Canadian postage envelopes have never been manufactured on buff paper.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

W. H. GRIFFIN,
Deputy Postmaster-General.

James M. Chute, Esq.,
24, Blacktown Street, Boston, Mass.

West Springfield, Mass., U. S.,
August 23, 1866.

To the Editor of 'THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'
DEAR SIR,—In reply to an inquiry from myself I lately received a letter from Mr. George F. Nesbitt, of the firm of Nesbitt & Co., envelope manufacturers,

Pearl Street, New York, in which he states—"I have made every envelope ever issued by the United States government. I made the Canada stamped envelopes through another house; they are made of white paper only. The cost of manufacture has varied from one dollar per thousand to four times that sum."

This assertion of an authority upon the matter would seem to settle the question of the genuineness of the buff Canada envelopes.

The three-cent envelope stamp of 1861 on blue paper, which Mount Brown classes as a 'variety,' had as distinct an individuality as either the white or buff. It was known as the 'stamped letter-sheet,' being folded so as to form its own wrapper, as it were, and hence to retain the stamp and postmark in connection with the written letter. But few were issued, and it soon went out of use, which accounts for its present rarity. I neglected to state in a former communication that the head of Washington upon the three-cent adhesive is from the original 'Houdon' portrait.

I enclose a letter which fully explains the fact that 'the two New York Bank-Note Companies' are entirely distinct corporations.*

I remain, Sir, yours respectfully,

L. H. B.

From the above two letters no doubt can any longer remain that the Canadian envelopes have never existed on buff paper. The maker asserts 'they are made of *white paper* only;' and the colonial Deputy Postmaster-General states that envelopes on *buff* paper 'have never been manufactured.' We should ourselves draw the same conclusion from the fact that no postmarked copy of the buff envelope has ever been noticed. But notwithstanding the decisive authority of the communications we quote, we still remain of opinion that the impressions of these envelopes on buff paper are genuine impressions from the original dies, and see no reason to alter the statements in our article on Canadian envelopes, vol. iii. It is to be remarked that our conclusion is by no means at variance with what we must now consider the accepted facts; and the whole solution of the apparent difficulty rests in the explanation that the impressions on buff paper are trial impressions or proofs of the dies.

Messrs. Nesbitt & Co. have produced several such, *e. g.*, a yellow proof of the three-cent envelope, small oval of 1860, proofs in lilac and burnt sienna of the two-cent envelope, head of Jackson, of 1863. We possess a copy of the Cana-

dian envelope on buff paper, entire, struck on the paper, watermarked P. O. D. U. S. (the same as used for all the United States envelopes). This is conclusive as to the genuine nature of the specimen. And we have also an impression of the five cents, struck on a sheet of blue laid paper, folding with a flap, so as to combine paper and envelope all in one. Both of these are marked *SAMPLE*, and are evidently essays or trials.

The information our correspondent, 'L. H. B.,' gives as to the three-cent envelope of the United States, on blue laid paper, will be new to many of our readers. To those who collect envelopes in their entire state the fact has long been known, and many careful observers have also arrived at the same conclusion from the lines of the watermark in the paper being *horizontal*, while all envelopes on laid paper are *cut on the cross*, as the ladies say—a phrase which exactly expresses our meaning.

This strikes us as a great and hitherto-unanswered argument in favour of collecting envelopes *whole*. With continental amateurs this is the invariable rule. We hope before long to present our readers with some ideas of our own on collecting, and also on mounting and arranging a collection.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Stamp Courier and Curiosity Advertiser.
Dewsbury: Abbs & Fryer.

On the principle perhaps that courtesy as well as charity begins at home, the editors of the *Stamp Courier*, in their opening article, 'beg to congratulate themselves upon having supplied a long-felt want by the advertising philatelic and curiosity community in general.' We gain no further information concerning the mysterious 'curiosity community,' but the 'long-felt want,' we are told, is 'a circular issued in the middle of the month, which would not only cause the stamp and curiosity market to revive (for it is a well-known fact that it does decrease towards the middle and end of the month),

* For the letter referred to, see correspondence.

but one which would have for its sole aim the extending of stamp and curiosity collecting.' We presume from the congratulations which the publishers beg to offer to themselves that the *Stamp Courier* has already accomplished the object for which it was started, and in that case it is surprising how little literary effort was necessary for its attainment. A leader, setting forth the advantages which the new publication offers to advertisers, a half column of description of newly-issued stamps, and another of chit-chat, with a page of prose and poetical selections not bearing at all on stamps, constitute (with the exception of the advertisements) the entire attractions of the paper, which is, or is to be, the reviver of trade and the extender of the fashion of collecting. We wish well to this latest aspirant to public favour, but, though it may command success, it will not deserve it, unless the pretensions with which it is started, are better supported in future numbers than in the one before us.

The Round Table. New York.

WE have before us a copy of this excellent journal, containing an opening article on 'philately' from the pen of one of the best-informed American collectors. The rise of the trade and the prevalence of forgeries and essays are the principal topics treated on in this introductory paper. The account given of the progress of stamp collecting will doubtless interest the readers of the American 'Ishmael,' though by no means new to philatelists themselves, and will pave the way for further details concerning our 'coloured favourites.'

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

MEMOIRS OF A STAMP MERCHANT.—Mons. Maury, the editor and proprietor of *Le Collectionneur des Timbres-Poste*, of Paris, has commenced the publication of his autobiography in this journal, under the title, *Mémoires d'un marchand des timbres-poste*.

FRENCH LETTER-CARRIERS.—It has been stated in the French Legislative Assembly that the rural letter-carriers walk daily; on an average, sixteen miles, and sometimes as much as twenty or twenty-five, and yet receive, some as little as £12 a year. Some of the country postmistresses receive only £20 to £25 per annum, out of which they have to pay rent.

A PHOTOGRAPH of an entire sheet of New Caledonian stamps is now being sold by Parisian dealers

It is an excellent copy, and collectors who are unable to procure the valuable originals (or rather the original reprints), to fill the space allotted for them in Lallier's album, will do well to occupy it with the photograph. On the other hand, we must warn our readers against being deceived into purchasing the photograph as the genuine article. The gloss on the paper will enable even a tyro to detect the imitation.

THE MINUTE OF STAMPS.—When you know where to find them, nothing is easier to observe than the words ONE FLORIN on the two-shilling stamps of Victoria, but without some previous knowledge of their whereabouts our readers would find the search a trying matter. And it would be hardly less difficult for them to discover the minute word SIXPENCE on the sixpenny stamps of the same device as the two-shilling. To save them however a troublesome scrutiny, we beg them to direct their glance to the scrolls on each side below the word VICTORIA on both the stamps. In each they will find the hidden words.

MAIL FACILITIES in the Sandwich Islands are still of a somewhat primitive order. Every Wednesday afternoon, it is said, a travel-worn postman enters the village of Kawaihai with his rubber-covered bag strapped securely to his back. This he has brought from Hilo, since Monday morning, and as the shades of evening cool the rocky hill-sides, he starts on his return, reaching the bay on Saturday night, an arrival which, in steamer times, is no less welcome than regular. This journey which, measured on the many curved roads up and down the sides of ravines and including a detour into Waipio, must be not less than 160 miles in length, is performed in alternate weeks by two men who show great power of endurance. Sometimes, though rarely, a horse is brought into requisition.—*Stamp-Collector's Monthly Gazette*.

THE BOOK POST was at first unquestionably a very bold adventure. The newspaper post, which long preceded it, is the result of rather a complicated struggle connected with what have been called 'taxes on knowledge.' In reference to it, we shall simply say that there are now about 70,000,000 newspapers sent annually through the post; but as concerns the book post, the postmaster-general says:—'The book post has entailed a very large increase of expense on the post office; and it has made the primary duty of the department—the duty of distributing letters—more difficult of performance than it might otherwise have been. By the establishment of the book post, the gross weight of the mails and the weight to be carried by each letter-carrier have been increased, and by it the operations of sorting have been much complicated.' In truth, were it not for the profit realised on letters, the book post could hardly be expected to pay itself: seeing that it includes such a phenomenon as carrying a quarter of a pound of paper to any part of the United Kingdom, and delivering it at a person's house, for one penny. Nevertheless, the authorities of St. Martin's-le-Grand, in this as in many other ways, set an example which foreign nations are one by one following; and the educational result of the system must necessarily be important, however little it may be detected at first. At the rate of a penny for four ounces, or fourpence per pound, it is found that the packets sent by the inland book post average about five ounces each, and pay about twopence each postage. The average postage of all the letters that pass through the post is a trifle over one penny.—*Once a Week*.

THE COLLECTION OF IMPERFECT WORKS OF ART.—The prices obtained for engravings is even more re-

markable than those of pictures, inasmuch as they depend on so many circumstances extraneous to the excellence of the work—as their rarity, width of margin, brilliancy and earliness of impression, and in some of the most striking cases on what is really an imperfection. Thus, an impression of Raphael Morghen's 'Last Supper,' with a plate on the table left white, will sell for more than double the finest impression taken after the engraver had discovered and rectified his oversight. At a sale at Christie's, a copy of this engraving, 'a most splendid proof before the letters, and with the white plate—a print of the greatest rarity,' only five others being known—sold for £316. Strange's 'Henrietta and her Children,' before the jewels on the table, sells for some pounds more than when the jewels, a decided improvement, are added. So is it with Rembrandt's 'Burgomaster Six,' and several other of his etchings, some of the etchings of Calcott, and many other prints. This may seem, and in many cases is, a mere puerility, or the vanity of a collector desirous to possess what is almost unique; but it is partly justified by the fact that the condition is a warranty of the print being taken from an unworn plate! Thus discourseth the historian of 'Art in the Auction Room,' in *London Society*. Who, after reading his remarks, can consider excessive, the expenditure of three or four guineas by a philatelist in the purchase of some rare imperfection amongst stamps,—some unique impression from a 'native' die, or in an unusual colour, as valuable to him as scarce engravings are to the collector of such things.

SHIPPING THE OVERLAND MAIL.—I had long wished to see the Overland Mail. I never had a notion what the Overland Mail could be like;—whether it was a coach painted red with a blazing royal arms, attended by a gold-laced guard; or a portable post-office, to be conveyed by rail and ship from the Waterloo station to India and China. But now, the entire broadside of an immense horse-box being let down, the Overland Mail bursts upon me like a trick in a pantomime. The huge van is suddenly transformed into a prodigious exaggeration of the sign of the Chequers on Portsmouth Hard, or the side wall of Harlequin's private residence; for it is a series of squares in blazing colours, filling up the horse-box from floor to roof. It is received with all befitting ceremony. Two gentlemen—attired in cocked hats (made, I think, of black court plaster, edged with faded lace), and surcoat coats, hitched up at the hips, like window curtains, by the pommels of their swords; attended by the Southampton postmaster, and a second ubiquitous officer of the *Bentlinek*, solemnly draw forth pencils and printed forms, and order the gaudy squares to be separated. I find them to consist of wooden boxes, about two feet long by one foot deep, each distinguished by a separate colour: that its destination may at once be seen. Down a slide into the little steamer tumbles a red box. A porter shouts 'Hong Kong!' Then comes a blue box—'Calcutta!' Buff—'Madras!' No paint—'Aden!' White—'Bombay!' Black (like coffins for dead letters)—'Ceylon!' At each of the one hundred and ninety announcements thus made, the cocked hats nod gracefully; not so much out of respect to Her Majesty's mail-boxes, as to enable the gentlemen under them to record each colour in its proper column on the printed form. The mails are, in fact, given into their charge. They are called 'admiralty agents.'—*Household Words*.

THE SHORTCOMINGS OF THE POST-OFFICE.—The reporter of the 'Town Talk' in *Fun* makes the following remarks on the postal service:—'The post-office is getting into hot water—and not without reason. The efficiency of the department is greatly overrated. Considering

what a paying speculation it is, it should do much more for the public, and would too if it were a private adventure. The non-delivery of letters on Sunday, in deference to bigotry and fanaticism, is a serious evil, and the insufficiency of postal arrangements in the suburbs is a grave inconvenience. Few Londoners live in London proper now: they have villas within half-an-hour's rail of town, and the posts at about that radius round the metropolis are not half so frequent, or so convenient, as those at places hundreds of miles from London. No wonder that men of business, who cannot always keep their business within the hours they spend in the city, complain! And the remedy would be easy. Let the post-office come to an agreement with the railway companies, by which the latter will be empowered to issue—say a twopenny stamp even, which should ensure the carriage of any letter bearing it up to town by the latest train, to be posted by the guard in a London pillar-box, by which means its delivery in the metropolitan districts the first thing in the morning would be attained. The book post, which was supposed to be designed for the special benefit of literary men, in the habit of sending messages, is utterly useless, owing to the almost invariable (?) custom of local postmasters to avail themselves of the twenty-four hours delay allowed by regulation. Then, again, the combination of money-order offices and savings' banks, with ordinary shops, is most inconvenient in a busy place like the city. The postmaster is engaged in weighing out a pound of tea, or making up a prescription, and the customers who want to do business with the post-office, have to give way to those who are concerned in the more lucrative commerce of the shop. Even when this is not the case, Mr. Hyson, Mr. Bolus, or the members of his family (generally females), who look after the government department, are very slow and inexperienced. Little bureaux should be established, solely for the carrying on of postal business, and they would supply berths for old servants, who can no longer undertake the active duties of delivering letters, and who, under the present system, are cut adrift altogether. All this is between you and me, at the post.' [The insinuation as to the inexperience and slowness of lady-assistants, is surely unworthy of a 'Saunterer in Society,' and the general complaint seems an exaggerated one. We have heard no grumbling of late; but perhaps the epistolary epidemic with which we are afflicted each autumn may this year be developed by imagined postal grievances.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE BREMEN OFFICIAL STAMP.

To the Editor of 'THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—In the July number of your magazine I observe an engraving of a Bremen stamp, which you state is used for *franking* official correspondence from that country. I think this must be a mistake, as a large number of these stamps pass through my hands every month, and the only official documents I find them on are Bremen 'letter bills,' and even then they are not upon the covers, but upon the 'bills' themselves. What their use is I cannot say; but on the Spanish, Portuguese, and some other continental 'letter bills' a large official seal with the national arms occupies the same position as the stamp in question on the Bremen documents.

Hoping this may be useful to your subscribers,

I remain, your obedient servant,
London. QUILL DRIVER.

ITALIAN 'REPRINTS.'

To the Editor of 'THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I desire to call the attention of your readers to the numerous old Italian stamps offered for sale unused and remarkably cheap. They are evidently from the original dies, but I should very much doubt whether they are 'genuine original impressions,' as various dealers warrant them to be. They have an over-fresh look about them, and I have little doubt but that they are reprints. As those I allude to were mostly on unwatermarked paper (such as Modena, Parma, Sardinia, fourth issue, and Sicily), I can think of no means of detecting them, but probably some of your many readers will be able to, and therefore I attract their attention to it. The colours are (all that I have seen) pretty correct, and except for their bright and fresh look there is no proof of their being reprints. I can only add that if any one could find out some sure way of detecting them they would confer a great benefit on the philatelic world.

Hoping some one may find out a way,

I subscribe myself,

A GENUINE ORIGINAL IMPRESSION.

[Notwithstanding the fresh appearance of the obsolete Italian stamps now sold we are inclined to believe that they are originals. However, we hope shortly to be able to lay before our readers an exhaustive article on the Italian stamps by a well-informed collector of Turin who will we understand be in a position to throw light on the question of 'originality.'—ED.]

THE PORTRAIT ON THE CHILIAN STAMPS.

To the Editor of 'THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—From time to time inquiries have appeared in this magazine as to the original of the portrait upon the Chilian postage stamps. I have it upon good authority that the personage depicted upon them is the lamented Freire, one of the early presidents of the country, and I think no other worthy is so well entitled to the distinction as he; for his name is intimately associated with those events which have freed Chili from the Spanish yoke, and established a flourishing republic. His name is held in reverence and respect by the Chilians, and in as high an estimation as we hold our Washington, or you our Nelson or Wellington. Should any stamp collector visit Santiago, the capital, he will find in the principal square a bronze statue of this worthy person, standing as a lasting memorial of one who signally aided an enterprising people in establishing their liberty.

The portrait upon the twenty and two hundred reis Brazil is that of the present emperor, so I am informed by the Secretary of the American Bank-Note Company.

I remain, Sir, respectfully yours,

Boston, Mass.

JAMES M. CHUTE.

THE PRUSSIAN TWO SILBERGROSCHEN
BISTRE ADHESIVE.

To the Editor of 'THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—In your 'answers to correspondents' you say that you 'have never seen a *bistre* 2 s. gr. Prussian eagle oval.' Neither have I. But allow me to remind you that it is nevertheless considered a reality by no less a person than the intelligent M. Regnard. He thus writes in the *Timbrophile* of December 1864: 'Among the few stamps which have escaped the notice of amateurs there is one which owes its value simply to its abnormal colour, and to the fact of so very few specimens being in existence.' We allude to

the 2 s. gr. *bistre* belonging to the eagle series of October, 1861, of which the ordinary colour is blue. We possess a specimen of this stamp, the authenticity of which no one has ever yet impugned, and it is the only one we have ever heard of. Therefore with regard to rarity it may take its stand by the side of the celebrated half-anna red of India, or the equally unattainable fourpenny red of the Cape of Good Hope. The workman employed to strike off these stamps must, as we suppose, have taken up the 2 s. gr. die instead of the 3 s. gr. by mistake, and thinking he was using the latter die must have printed a few in *bistre* before he discovered his error. Our own specimen is denticulated, and is postmarked 1862. We advise amateurs to search for the stamp in question: perseverance is sure to be rewarded.

Doubtless it is one of these abnormal rarities about which your correspondent inquires.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

FENTONIA.

Clifton.

CANADIAN LOCALS.

To the Editor of 'THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—On looking over the fourth edition of Dr. Gray's catalogue I was somewhat surprised to see the long list of American and Hamburg locals in it. And much more so at seeing several mentioned under the head of Canada; for there have been no genuine locals (if a local can be considered a genuine postage stamp) issued in Canada.

The penny and threepenny Ker's City Post (two unsightly labels) were printed about three years ago for a dealer then residing in Montreal, who finding that it paid well, issued two others (woodcuts), representing his own head.

Bell's Dispatch, got up by a dealer in Albany, and imitated by another in Montreal, has been extensively sold to collectors as genuine.

The Bancroft's City Express stamp was designed by one of the oldest and most extensive dealers in Montreal, who having obtained from Mr. Bancroft, as a friend, permission to use his name, had a design, which finding unsuitable he rejected. The Albany man, having obtained an impression from the rejected block, immediately got up an imitation of it. The Montreal dealer then had another design engraved on copper, which was transferred to stone, lithographed in sheets of twenty, and perforated. Thus originated one of the greatest of stamp swindles, to the no small profit of the originator, Bancroft having received none of the proceeds of its sale. In fact, it is contrary to the law of Canada for any individual or company to engage in carrying letters for a remuneration in opposition to the post-office.

I would advise collectors to remove all locals from their albums, for there is little pleasure in having five or six pages filled with coarse woodcuts and type-printed labels, most if not all of which are either fictitious or counterfeit, the best judge seldom being able to detect them, except as it often happens by the superior execution of the counterfeit.

It may interest you to know that a company is being organized in Montreal under the name of the British American Bank-Note Company (Limited), which will engrave and print all the stamps for the British American Confederation. These stamps may be expected about May, 1867.

Yours respectfully,

A COLLECTOR WHO DESPISES LOCALS.

Montreal.

NEWSPAPER STAMPS.

To the Editor of 'THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—I was glad to see an article in your magazine entitled 'Notes and Memoranda concerning Newspaper Stamps.' I have been a collector upwards of four years, and have always thought that newspaper stamps deserved a place in an album far more than private stamps. I have always been disappointed in not finding them mentioned in any catalogue; but your article may probably stir up collectors to the utility of collecting them. I do not know whether the old English were used for postage or not; but if so they will place the date of postage stamps much farther back than most people suppose. As I have several varieties which are not mentioned in your article, I will enumerate them.

1776, January 9th. Like A. page 157, the word HALFPENNY twice below.
1802, February 15th. Same device, above 16 PR. CT. DIST. THIRTEHALFENCE, below HALFPENNY four times, on left $4\frac{1}{2}$ PR. CT., and on right ADDL.

1807, March 11th. Same device, motto DIEU ET MON DROIT, above THREPERCE, below HALFPENNY, on left DIST. 16 PR. CT., and on right ADDL 18S. PER CT.

1819, January 25th. Same device, above FOUR, below FENCE, on left DISCOUNT 20, and on right PER CENT.

1823, February 24th. Same device, and value without the DISCOUNT.

1831, July 26th. Same device, on left DISCOUNT, on right 20 PER CENT.

1833, January 7th. Same device, and value with L after the 20, thus 20L.

1836, October 16th. Same device, above ONE, below PENNY, on left NEWS, on right PAPER.

The earliest newspaper in which I have found bearing the stamp in present use is for January 12th, 1857.

AUSTRIA.

1866, October 3rd. Eagle with number below, black impression, circular.

BELGIUM (I suppose).

2c. within a wreath of oak surrounded by T. D'ANNONCES ET (and another word which I cannot decipher), black impression, circular.

FRANCE.

The figure of Justice, said to be sitting (page 157), I judge to be standing. I have a 6 cen. and a $\frac{1}{2}$ cen. (same device), black impression, both cut from one newspaper for 1858.

1859, September 8th. A male figure to left, with wreath in right hand, his left hand resting on a lyre upon an altar, in front of altar 4c., on left TIMBRE ROYAL.

HAMBURG.

1839, January 9th. Castle with 3P. below, black impression, circular.

HOLLAND.

Arms crowned, to left 3f, to right c., above NOORD HOLLAND, blue impression, circular.

The dates given in the foregoing list are taken from the newspapers from which I cut the stamps.

Hoping the above may be of interest to your readers,

I am, sir, yours respectfully,

Bradford.

CHARLES HARLAND.

A SUPPLEMENT TO OPPEN'S ALBUM.

To the Editor of 'THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—I would beg to suggest that it would be conferring a great favour on the purchasers of the eighth edition of Oppen's Postage-stamp Album, if the editor and publisher of that work would issue a supplementary volume, uniform in size, &c., with the edition named. It might be got up somewhat as follows:—a single page might be allowed for each country, headed simply with the name of the place. Hanover, the Ionian Isles, Modena, Naples, Parma, Poland, Romagna, Sicily, Tuscany, Venetia, Reunion, Confederate States, Corrientes, Pacific Ocean Steam Navigation Company, and New Caledonia, might be excluded from the supplement altogether, as there is space sufficient in the album already published for the stamps of these now obsolete states. Suitable headings, and a page or two would have to be allowed for Bergedorf, the Levant, Shanghai, Egypt, British Honduras, Bolivia, Haiti, St. Kitts, and St. Thomas. In my opinion Bergedorf, the Levant, and St. Th. mas, ought to have been represented in the eighth edition of the album. I would allow a page in the sup-

plement for all places issuing stamps at present, for the simple reason that many of the countries represented in the album have already too little space for stamps already issued. For instance, Finland, Mecklenburg, Norway, Hong Kong, St. Helena, Honduras, Antigua, Bahamas, Bermuda, Cuba, Grenada, Nevis, St. Lucia, New Zealand, Sandwich Isles, and Tasmania. All these named have too little space, or will have whenever a new set of stamps are forthcoming. I think a supplement something like what I have attempted to describe, size and binding uniform with the eighth edition, would be much better than loose leaves gummed into the album, and which cannot in some instances be got to follow in their succession. Whether the thing would pay or not I have no means of judging, but I feel certain it would be a boon to many collectors.

I am, dear Sir, yours respectfully,

WILLIAM VIPOND.

[We understand that a ninth edition of Oppen's album is about to be published, and that all the conveniently practicable improvements noted above, with many others, will be embodied therein; but the modicum of the work, in a complete form, militates against the production of the supplementary portion suggested by our correspondent. In the present edition Bergedorf is included with Hamburg.—Ed.]

THE TWO COMPANIES.

[The following letter, forwarded to us by our respected correspondent, 'L. H. B.,' of Massachusetts, U. S., will be read with interest by our readers, solving as it does what appeared to us to be a knotty problem.—Ed.]

National Bank-Note Company,

No. 1, Wall Street, New York, July 31st, 1866.

Mr. L. H. B., West Springfield, Mass.

DEAR SIR,—We have your note of the 30th instant. The American and National Bank-Note Companies are, and have always been, entirely separate and distinct corporations, antagonistic to each other in business, and only mutually interested and engaged upon the same work when they are compelled to be so by action of authorities ordering the work.

For the purpose of expediting the engraving and printing for the government, and surrounding it during the process of manufacture with all possible safeguards and checks, Mr. Chase, while Secretary of the Treasury, instituted the system whereby the two companies were compelled to use the dies and rolls belonging to each other, containing the material which had been selected for the notes, bonds, postage currency, &c., &c. In some cases, as for example on the postage currency, the plates and printing for the backs of the impressions were made by the American company, while the plates and printing for the faces were made by the National, and delivered by them to the government. At other times one company executed the whole of the plates and printing for a series of notes, although they may have used the dies and rolls prepared by and belonging to the other company.

That each company might be known as being engaged upon the work, frequently the imprints of both companies were placed upon the same plate, as was the case with the five dollars legal tender you refer to. By marks upon each impression we can tell the time the plate was made, by whom, when the impressions were printed, and by whom.

With the exception of the United States postage stamps (for letters), which are made exclusively by the National Bank-Note Company, all the government work which is given to the two companies to execute is divided equally between them (the only difference being, that the American Company make

two notes of the national currency, fifty dollars and a hundred dollars, more than the National).

Very respectfully your obedient servant,

J. MACDONOUGH.

Secretary.

'DER BRIEFMARKEN SAMMLER' AND THE AUSTRIAN MERCURIES.

To the Editor of 'THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—The account of these stamps in the above magazine, and condensed in the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, is so palpably wrong that a running commentary on the principal assertions may not (I hope) be considered out of place.

1. We are first told that red Mercuries were withdrawn, but a large stock being in hand, they were issued to the public instead of blue. The same is said of yellow, but in addition for the yellow when the stamp was decreed to be withdrawn, a new die (and why a new die?) was engraved, and stamps printed in deep red to supply the place of the deposed yellow—said yellows being meanwhile issued as blues. This is a curious idea, and not probable; it is the same as if our twopenny blue stamp were withdrawn, and a green one made, the twopenny on hand being sold as reds (penny). Then, too, if the yellow and red were used as blues, why are blues common as dirt, and the other two still so exceedingly rare? Indeed the *Briefmarken Sammler* itself says 'the original pale red is so rare that many collectors have never even seen one.'

2. We are next told that yellow and deep red are seldom postmarked, the minor post-offices having, in spite of repeated instructions, generally omitted to obliterate them. The other idea (No. 1) was curious, this is simply foolish. Why did the minor post-offices obliterate the blues, but require such repeated instructions, and yet not do their duty by the reds and yellows? Have any of your readers noticed other Austrian stamps to be subject to the vagaries and neglect of obliterating clerks? Strange indeed if genuine red and yellow are so seldom obliterated, whilst the blues are to be had in that state by the hundred, that it cannot be accounted for by the rarity of the two first mentioned.

The facts are simply these:—no Mercuries are original and genuine except blue, yellow, and pale rose. There are reprints respectively coloured poppy red (the *ponceau* of foreign catalogues), ochre yellow, and darker blue. These reprints are from the same die as the originals, therefore all genuine Mercuries are from one die. The deep red mentioned by *Der Briefmarken Sammler* as from a different die, to replace the yellow, is a forgery, and is therefore seldom found obliterated. The reason again that yellows (as well as deep reds) are so rarely postmarked, is a simple one—the real yellow is but little commoner than the real pale rose; ninety-nine per cent. of those sold are prepared by chemical agency from the blue stamp, and as postmarked blues do not turn to so good a yellow as unpostmarked ones, the clue is at once found to yellows being (in common with the forged reds) 'seldom postmarked.'

Yours faithfully,

EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

Birmingham.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

E. E. II.—The British Guiana provisional (formerly known as newspaper) stamps, are worth about five shillings each. The white letters in the centre are the initials *U. M.*, written on each stamp before it was circulated. For full information respecting these stamps, we must refer you to the able article on the stamps of British Guiana, in *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, vol. iii.—We understand that the project of issuing envelope stamps for France, has been postponed until next year.

DUDLEY, London.—This correspondent, in addition to the stamp named last month, mentions a black 'Strand Parcels' Company,' and a Bremen official, of the type described in our July number, printed on pink paper. He also sends a Dutch newspaper stamp, consisting of the arms of Holland, with 1 on the left, and c. on the right side, and *NOORD, HOLLAND*, on the upper edge of the enclosing circle.

L. W. P., Boston, Mass.—Your 'Prince Edward Island' essay we believe to be an impostor, got up only for sale. The name of the island is wrongly spelt, an s being added to the EDWARD, and altogether the design has an unreal look. It may have been submitted to the Prince Edward Island authorities, but, if so, it must have been without the slightest expectation of its being accepted, and only in order to give it a character which it is not entitled to. We trust our readers will be on their guard against this fictitious essay. Its design consists of a steamship in a narrow octagonal inscribed border, which, with a marginal scroll-work, is enclosed in a rectangular frame. It is printed, our correspondent informs us, in blue, green, vermilion, yellow, and black.—It is the intention of the publishers to continue the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine* through the next, and, it is hoped, through many succeeding years.

S. C. BLAKE, Great Yarmouth.—The stamp you enclose—a provisional six annas East India—was described and engraved in our last number.

G. W. JUSON describes a stamp of which we have, ourselves, seen a specimen, and says it came on a letter from Cashmere. We have already noticed a round Cashmere stamp, and the square stamp he names is, perhaps, another of the series. Our correspondent requires information as to its history and date of issue. We purpose giving an engraving of our specimen next month, upon seeing which, our readers will be in a better position to answer G. W. J.'s inquiries, and our own.

J. J., London, sends us some capitally-executed tracings of old newspaper stamps. Two are Irish; one taken from a newspaper of 1784, and consisting of a crown and harp on a mantle, with IRELAND on white, and HALF-PENNY in dark letters below; the other—from the *Dublin Morning Post* of 1798—is larger and more elaborate, consisting of the Irish harp in a circle, inscribed 544 above, and TWOPENCE below, surmounted by crown, and with branches on each side. The whole is enclosed in a wavy oval ribbon, with a knot above, below, and at the sides. Another tracing is from an old French newspaper, and resembles those now in use, except in the inscription.—TIMBRE ROYAL, and a fourth for Holland is very like the one described in our reply to 'Dudley,' above; the differences being that the value is 2½ instead of 1 c., and the inscription, which is VOOR HETLAND, is below the shield.

LLEMNTHWFARLNYHT.—The length of our correspondent's *nom de plume* leaves us but little room to reply to his query. Our 'newly-issued' article this month contains a representation of the East Indian stamp he names.

UNDISCOVERED STAMPS OF THE ARGENTINE CONFEDERATION.

It is not often that it falls to the lot, either of our contemporaries or ourselves, to announce to the philatelic world an entirely new discovery of an ancient stamp, still less to record the accession to the list of *two* stamps of an issue dating so far back as 1858; the existence of which has never, to our belief, been known by any collector, much less revealed to the world. We can well imagine that our present declaration will cause incredulity among some, and provoke disbelief among others, but we owe it not the less to our readers and ourselves at once to make public the results of our recent research.

All collectors will easily recall to mind the earliest-catalogued stamp of the Argentine Confederation—5 centavos red—the design displaying the well-known arms, viz., a rising sun, and the interlaced hands beneath supporting the cap of Liberty; the whole surrounded by a border ornamented with a Greek fretwork, and bearing a large figure (5) of the value immediately below the arms.

This stamp is recorded by Mount Brown as having been issued in 1860, while Berger-Levrault, who is as accurate as Brown is loose and careless, gives the date of the decree authorising the stamp, as February, 1858, and of the appearance of the stamp as the succeeding April.

This 5 centavos has remained, hitherto, as the sole type and specimen of the issue, and has never been very common, either used or unused; it is lithographed on thinnish white woven paper, without watermark, adhesive, and unperforated. To it, according to all the catalogues, succeeded an issue of 5 centavos red, 10 cents green, and 15 cents blue, in the following December, viz., 1858 (Levrault), Brown puts it as 1861; the later issue was of a precisely similar design, the chief differences being that the figures of value were smaller, and the Greek fret bordering larger than in the former stamp. Paper and printing were alike.

We recently received from an official of high rank, at Buenos Ayres, several sheets of these two series, and, to our great surprise, found enclosed with them entire sheets of a

10 centavos green, and 15 centavos blue, large figures, similar to the hitherto unique value of the first issue,—stamps and values hitherto unknown to us, in common with the rest of the stamp-loving community.

The person who forwarded these to England, obtained them directly from the Argentine government, with which he is officially connected, and his position is to us a sufficient guarantee of their genuine nature.

Putting that consideration aside altogether, and going to the stamps themselves, we also received entire sheets of the 5 centavos first issue, as to the genuineness of which no question can arise, and these sheets of the 10 and 15 centavos precisely tally both in number, position, mode of printing, paper, and indeed every other point where identity is possible, or a difference would, if it existed, be traced. The entire sheet is long and narrow, comprehending eight stamps in a row, and twelve rows ranged under each other, thus making ninety-six stamps in all to the sheet.

The paper and the adhesive matter at the backs present traces of age, and are precisely similar in the whole three values of the series, the colours are slightly more positive and deep than the green and blue of the second issue. Like the 5 cents first issued, there is a dot after the figures 15. in the blue, but in the green stamp there is no dot after the 10. The size of the fret in the bordering is identical with that surrounding the first 5 cents.

We have now told nearly all we know of this newly-discovered pair of stamps, of the genuine nature of which we entertain no doubt; for, apart from their unquestionable source, the facts above stated leave no room for scepticism in our mind. But we can readily conceive the questions put, Why should these stamps be printed? Why lie so long unknown, and, above all, why should a complete series of three of identical values be issued by the authorities so soon after printing, and without using these?

To this we can reply that the emission of the second issue, it is clear, followed very shortly after the issue of the 5 centavos, and the reason for superseding these latter would be equally applicable to any others of

that issue; next, that the original decree authorising the first issue, specified three rates of postage, chargeable at 5, 10, and 15 centavos respectively; that the 5 centavos was, probably, first printed as being most needed for use, and as a multiple of the other values, could serve in their stead; that afterwards these 10 and 15 centavos were prepared, but before being actually issued, indeed before more than a few sheets were printed off, the change to a smaller sized stamp was resolved on, and the second issue prepared and issued in its entirety; and lastly, that the few sheets thus printed remained in the possession of the government authorities, unknown to philatelists, unchronicled in catalogues, and lost to fame, till the present specimens were sent to England in the early part of last month, November.

Thus it will be seen, we conjecture, in the absence of more detailed information, that this pair of ancient novelties are veritable stamps, printed and prepared for circulation, but never issued, resembling in this respect the stamps of Austrian Italy, recently noticed in our columns. We have thus given our readers the benefit of our judgment and the reasons for our conclusion on the facts now before us. We only desire to reserve ourselves the right, if further information reaches us, to modify our opinion in any way that fresh circumstances may require.

THE MILLIONTH!

A THREE-VOLUME SENSATION.

EXTRACTED FROM 'FUN.'

VOL. I.

At the close of a fine autumnal day, during the troublous year eighteen hundred and sixty-odd, a handsome and intelligent youth might have been observed collecting obliterated postage-stamps in a retired part of Islington. Several hundred of the fragile baubles lay before him on the table of his modest parlour.

Suddenly there came a loud, quick summons that shook the entire district. Hark! a second; and then all was utter silence for a time. Anon there came an opening and shutting of doors—a scuffle of busy feet;—

and a domestic entered the apartment bearing a letter. The contents of the missive ran as follows:—

'Dear GUY,—Nothing will shake papa's resolution. I implore you to persevere in your task. You have two years allowed for its completion; and what is a *million*, dear? Go on and conquer, as you value the hand of
Your
ANGELICA.

'P.S.—In the top right-hand corner of the envelope which contains this, you will find a queen's-head. Remove it with care, and it will serve to swell your collection.'

Guy kissed the precious missive—abstracted the stamp—and retired early to a bolster stuffed with feathers from the wing of Cupid.

VOL. II.

479,834!

One year was over, and the labours of Guy were not yet half accomplished. Still the hoard kept increasing day by day. His fellow-clerks in the City had come forward manfully in the cause; and a few young ladies at Barnsbury, interested in the romance of the affair, had formed themselves into a committee, and contributed seventy-nine stamps, together with an expression of profound sympathy written in red ink.

But in the meantime toil and anxiety were doing their work upon the once jubilant and vivacious Guy. His cheek was no longer ruddy—his eye was no longer lighted up with Love and Hope. Occasionally, as he contemplated the barrier that stood between himself and Angelica, the tear would start unbidden.

Medical men recommended a change of air, but there was an insuperable obstacle. Our great metropolis is the centre of commerce, and a large proportion of that commerce is carried on through the agency of the penny post. The climate of Broadstairs is irreproachable; but there is only one delivery *per diem* in that salubrious village.

The enfeebled but courageous Guy determined that he would remain in London. Come what might, he would be true to his post! The weary weeks and months crawled on and the collection increased slowly but surely.

Angelica's devotion was noble. She wrote at least once a fortnight, and never enclosed less than half-a-dozen obliterated postage-stamps. Guy was grateful, but a little jealous. How came it, he asked himself, that a timid and retiring girl could receive six letters in a couple of short weeks? He would have given worlds to see the envelopes!

VOL. III.

999,999!

At the close of an autumnal day, exactly two years after the events narrated in our first volume, Guy lay stretched upon a bed of sickness. The gorgeous fabric of his ambition was within one little unit of completion, but his face was pale and his eyes lustreless.

A few devoted friends were around his bed; there was no lack of sorrow in that little group. Many of them, stern men of the world, would have purchased at the price of gold one simple obliterated postage-stamp. But it was not to be!

Guy raised himself in bed—looked round him affectionately—and was on the point of speaking, when the well-known summons at the street-door reverberated through the house.

They brought the letter to him. He tore it open, and read in a weak voice:—

'DEAR GUY,—Papa expects you this evening, and is prepared at once to join our hands if the conditions are fulfilled. The time allotted will expire at midnight.

'Yours, ANGELICA.

'P.S.—At the corner of this envelope you will find a stamp. It will serve to swell your collection.'

The trembling fingers of the reader tore away the precious gift. 'Victory! victory!' he gasped, clenching it in his emaciated hand. 'But it is too late. Farewell, Angelica! Farewell, my friends! If you would earn the gratitude of a dying man, bury this relic with me. I' —

His voice died away.

They found it impossible to extricate the postage-stamp, so it was buried with him, as he requested.

FINIS.

NOTES ON THE PRUSSIAN STAMPS.

BY OVERY TAYLOR.

THE Prussian stamps are amongst the few which seem always to have been common. The early issues had been in existence so long before stamp collecting became fashion-



able, that specimens were easily obtained as soon as a demand for them arose. When penny Bahamas realized eighteenpence each, Prussian stamps could be got for a sixth of that sum. Since then, they have been raked

up by hundreds of thousands, and now it would probably be difficult to find a collection in which they are not fairly represented. Doubtless, every reader of these remarks will be able to confirm them, if correct, or to disprove them, if fallacious, upon the evidence afforded by the Prussian page in his own album.

The first emission took place on the 15th November, 1850, and consisted of four stamps, the 6 pf. red, 1 s. gr. rose, 2 s. gr. blue, 3 s. gr. yellow. The device was the same for each value, viz., the head of king on ground of horizontal and vertical lines, in ornamented rectangular frame, with FREI-MARKE above, and value in words and letters below. The first-named stamp is printed on white paper, the remainder in black on coloured. These latter present, as far as we know, no variation in colour. We have examined thousands, but have never found any greater difference than could be accounted for by the better or worse preservation of particular specimens. The reason, no doubt, is that paper is far more uniformly coloured than printing ink can be. In the 6 pf. there is not the same unchangeable tint, though in none which have come before us has the distinction been so great as to constitute a variety. M. Moens chronicles a 6 pf. brown, but Levraut does not include it in his list. We have now before us a specimen evenly coloured red-brown, which we think may have been so issued, but we hesitate to assert that such was the case, as we have two other specimens that are each partly red and partly

brown—a discolouration resulting from atmospheric or chemical causes, which is paralleled in other stamps printed originally in the same colour, *e. g.*, the orange laureated New South Wales penny, the orange Newfoundland series, &c.

The first series was completed by the emission on the 1st May, 1856, of the 4 pf. green. The pattern of this stamp differs somewhat in detail from that of the other members of the issue, and at first sight it appears to have been printed from a different die. After a careful examination, however, we have come to the conclusion that it is from the same die as the earlier-issued stamps, and that the differences arise from the wear and tear to which the die had been subjected in the interim. The colour, a rich green, remains unimpaired by age, and varies but slightly in the specimens which have come under our notice. Altogether the first series, though not remarkable for brilliancy, has a respectable appearance, all the individuals being printed in 'fast' lines. Unused originals are difficult to obtain, but copies neatly obliterated with the annular mark are common enough. The evidence of the originality of an impression is, as is well known, the presence of the wreath watermark. It is visible plainly enough on the back of all the values without being held up to the light. The entire series was reprinted in 1864 on unwatermarked paper, and we remember to have seen proofs in carmine and blue of the silbergroschen stamps, probably also of recent origin.

Continuing the list of adhesives, we have to notice the second emission, which took place (saith Levrault) on the 1st January, 1857, and consisted of three values—1 sgr. rose, 2 sgr. blue, 3 sgr. yellow and orange. The device of these stamps, the same in its leading features as that of the first series, differs from it principally in being on a solid ground. Moens would place these stamps after the issue on white paper with latticed ground, but we think with little reason. It is evident, on comparing the second and third issues, that the latter is from the same die as the former, with the addition of a cross-barred ground. Such an addition could

have been easily made without injury to the design, but it must have been made after the dies had been used for the issue on plain ground, which must therefore take priority. Levrault, whose chronology is generally reliable, takes this view, whilst Moens, perhaps through a typographical error, gives the same date—the 23rd December, 1856—for the emission of both the second and third series, which is clearly incorrect. Even the comparative rarity of the stamps of the issue with solid ground goes to show that they were in circulation for a shorter period than the others, that period being in fact from the commencement of 1857 till some time in 1858. The engraving of this series is rather finer than that of the first, and, being printed in coloured inks instead of on coloured paper, the stamps look brighter and cleaner. The portrait of the king differs considerably in the two issues, the sleepy expression in the first giving place to a nervous *dilletante* appearance in the second. In both he is shown to much less advantage than in the noble series of envelopes.

The third series, as we have before said, is from the same die as the second, and distinguished from it only by the addition of a lined background, and by the lightness of its colours. The rich hues of the second issue are but faintly repeated in the third, and a certain ineffectiveness is noticeable in all the stamps of which it is composed. This series, as well as the preceding, is unwatermarked, and printed on white paper. Mons. Mahé, in his *Guide Manuel*, chronicles a light and a dark set of each, and also a 3 sgr. blue 1858, an *erreur d'impression* of great rarity.

The early 4 and 6 pf., it would appear, remained in existence whilst the second emission was current, but on the appearance of the third the former gave way to a stamp of the new design, and the latter was printed on plain paper. Moens again seems in error as to the date of issue of the unwatermarked 6 pf. He has it that this stamp was superseded at the time of the emission of the 4 pf., viz., the 1st May, 1856. But it seems very unlikely that the authorities would on the same day

issue a new stamp with, and an old one without, a watermark. The lengthened currency of the first $\frac{1}{2}$ sgr. is certainly surprising, but its relative scarcity leads us to infer that it was never in great demand. The learned Belgian collector appears indeed to have been strangely misled on the subject of the dates of issue of the Prussian stamps.

It is now time to turn our attention to the obsolete envelopes. These we have termed a 'noble' series, and we think if our readers will refer to the page on which their specimens are mounted they will agree that the term is not misapplied. Both the ovals and the octagons are remarkably graceful and well-proportioned, and the king's head is in admirable relief. The whole number, according to our German authority, was emitted on one day, the 15th September, 1851—only a few months after the adhesives, and comprised seven values, viz.:

| | | |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1 | silbergroschen, | rose. |
| 2 | " | blue (light and dark). |
| 3 | " | yellow, orange. |
| 4 | " | brown. |
| 5 | " | lilac. |
| 6 | " | green. |
| 7 | " | red. |

This first emission was on paper so arranged that two threads crossed the stamp, and was uninscribed. The four lower values were re-issued in 1857 without threads, impressed on the right upper corner of the envelope, and surmounted by an inscription. All the values were reprinted two or three years since, but without threads or inscription; and the re-prints have doubtless proved welcome to those who could not obtain the originals.

Most of the obliterated specimens of the octagons which have come under our notice, have been mutilated, in conformity with the foolish practice of cutting away all the margin of envelopes. We think Lallier is largely to blame for encouraging it in the early editions of his album, by allotting space only for the bare impressions. The Roman stamps, in many old albums, are cut round to fit the patterned spaces, and thus much injured.

In 1861 the last of the 'head' series gave place to the present issue. Coincidentally with this change, the colour

of the 3 sgr. was altered from yellow to bistre, the hues of the other values remaining the same as in previous issues, viz. :—

| | | |
|---|----------------|--------|
| 4 | pennige | green. |
| 6 | " | red. |
| 1 | silbergroschen | rose. |
| 2 | " | blue. |

There is not much to admire in this series. It is correct enough in design, yet seems to be destitute of any special beauty. It may be from having seen such numbers from time to time, but we must confess we never look at one of the current Prussian stamps with pleasure. We owe them a kind of grudge for having been the models of the present issues for Lubeck, Oldenburg, and Saxony, to make room for which the handsome old series for those states were suppressed. The colours of the stamps of this issue have not been changed. Two rare varieties are, however, said to be in existence—the one, a 2 sgr. bistre, referred to in the last number of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, was discovered by M Regnard; the other, a 3 sgr. blue, is announced by Mons. Mahe in his Guide. Two shades of the ordinary 2 sgr. are acknowledged, and proofs exist of the 3 sgr. in gold, and of the 6 pf. in pale and deep yellow and slate. We have not seen a single specimen of the essay referred to in the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine* for March, 1865, since describing it. Probably only a few were worked, and those not for sale, or more would have been heard of them ere this. It is a pity their design—a really fine one—was not adopted; the unconventional mode of treating the eagle, by which it is characterised, alone marks it as far superior to that of the existing series, and the execution of the device is equal to its merit.

There now remain for mention only the 3 pf. mauve of 1865, the new 10 and 30 sgr. chronicled some months since, and the envelopes, of which there are two series, the first with the inscription above, the second with the inscription crossing the stamp. The values comprising the former are rather rare unused,

and look a little better than those of the present issue, which are uglified by the line of print.

POSTS AND POSTAGE STAMPS IN EGYPT.

ABRIDGED FROM 'LE TIMBRE-POSTE.'

By the operation of old treaties, each consulate in Egypt has become possessed of peculiar powers. Each one has the right to establish and maintain a post office, and private societies have gained equal privileges; thus it happens that several offices are in existence beside the viceregal one. This latter is under the excellent management of the Chevalier Muzzi Bey, ex-chief of a European post, and first founder of the regular administration in Egypt. The following are the posts of other countries:—

1.—*The French Post*, which is served by *Les Messageries Impériales* in the two branches of the Mediterranean and the Red Sea respectively, and carefully managed by M. Taradel, a commissioner of the Imperial government.

2.—*The English Post*, jealously reserved for the Peninsular and Oriental Company.

3.—*The Italian Post*, worked through the most direct line to Europe, by Brindisi and Ancona.

4.—*The Austrian Post*, which goes to Corfu and Trieste on the one hand, and on the other to Syria and Constantinople direct. This service belongs to the Austrian Lloyds.

5.—*The Russian Post*, which is represented by *The Russian General Steam Navigation Company*, and communicates with the Empire of the Czar.

6.—*The Grecian Post*, which has ceased to exist since the re-union of the Ionian Isles with the Greek kingdom.

Each of these seven offices employs its own stamps. They are all quite distinct and separate from each other,—follow the system of the mother country, and submit in every thing to their respective governments.

In order to take advantage of the several offices, it is necessary to obtain money of different denominations; Egyptian, if recourse be had to the viceregal post; French money, if letters are sent by the imperial post; pounds sterling [?], if they are

presented at the British office; centesimi and lire, if the Italian post is used; silver florins (because current paper money is refused), if the Austrian post is employed, and so on. It is of assistance in determining to which to entrust your letters, to know the different characteristics of each—one is the longest, another the quickest, a third the dearest. It is also necessary to know that the English post charges more for letters which are posted after time; that the English, French, and Italian offices take charge of each others' letters without distinction; that England has decided to abandon the old ports, and follow the lines chosen by the Italian vessels; and that the Egyptian flag is hoisted on the boats of the *Compagnie Azizie Misrihé*, which ply between Brindisi and Ancona. That society has some sort of agreement with the Austrian and French offices in respect to the service of the Syrian coast and the Mediterranean, up to the Bosphorus, works the Red Sea by itself, and conveys the pilgrims to Mecca.

The stamps of the Constantinople local post are current here, as well as the money of the Sultan—perhaps by virtue of his suzerainty. Here is a question which agitates diplomatists at present, and the solution of which is awaited with impatience.

The Austrian Lloyds uses the stamps of Venetia, and not those employed for the rest of the Austrian empire. The Russian post has the sole monopoly of the Black, Caspian, and Baltic seas, the Sea of Azoff, and of the posts to Syria, Smyrna, and Constantinople. It is required to use the ordinary stamps of the Russian empire, except for letters transmitted to Syria, for prepayment of postage of which it has been authorised to create stamps of its own, and thus the postal systems are still further complicated.

Letters by the Grecian post were franked with the well-known stamps bearing the head of Mercury (the god of thieves); but, Greece not being a regular maritime nation, was obliged to employ foreign vessels for the postal service, and when these ceased to stop at Coreyra it was discontinued.

In conclusion, we may add that there was for a time a Belgian post established in Alexandria, which ceased to act on the with-

drawal of the boats plying between that city and Antwerp; and that it is expected a Spanish office will shortly be opened, supported by vessels going between Egypt and Barcelona, the Balearic Isles, Cadiz, &c.

It will be seen by this catalogue, that whatever evils the foreign residents in Egypt have to lament, want of postal facilities is not among the number.

NEWLY-ISSUED OR INEDITED STAMPS.

MEXICO.—In addition to the values already described, a 13 c. dark-blue of the same design as the others, has made its appearance. The new stamps are equivalent, respectively, to the old $\frac{1}{2}$ real, 1 real, 2 reales, and 4 reales stamps, so we may expect that a 1 peso will be issued to complete the set. The 7 centavos, mentioned in our former number, is of a lilac-brown, almost verging on a dun. The colours of the 25 centavos vary from a light-yellow—and thence passing through several shades of orange—to a deep ochre. The 50 centavos green is both of a light clear colour and of a very deep full olive green. The stamps which have passed through the post-office of the city of Mexico are stamped MEXICO in German text characters beneath, with two figures that vary, and 1866 above. Other post-offices, *e. g.*, Guanajuato and Vera Cruz, stamp the name below in common type, with figures above; while others, again, stamp the name diagonally across the face of the stamp, as ZACATECAS. We conjecture the two first figures at the top represent a particular supply of stamps to the post-office in question, and that both the figures and names are part of a system for the protection of the revenue.

VICTORIA.—This colony, never ending still beginning in its types of postage stamps, has again brought forward a stamp of a design very closely resembling the tenpence recently issued. In an upright rectangular frame an oval band surrounds the head of Queen Victoria, turned to the left, crowned with a wreath of bays. In the oval band is inscribed above VICTORIA, below THREEPENCE. A little crown flanks the centre of the head on either side in the

band, and divides the upper from the lower legend. The angles are filled with a plaid groundwork, and in each corner is a small square containing the figure 3.

The colour is a dull pinkish lilac. The paper is white wove, watermarked with the figure 8, formed by single lines, and the stamp is perforated. In our judgment the change is no improvement; we greatly prefer the bold and free execution and clear design of the Queen's head in the circle, crowned with bays, of the hitherto latest type, to the poor *jejune* appearance of the new comer. We cannot conceive by what fatality it is that those who have to select designs so generally contrive to light upon such unmeaning, insipid, and spiritless productions, the adoption of which reflects neither credit on their judgment nor on the state of art in the colony.

SAINT VINCENT.—The newly-issued fourpence and one shilling have come over by the late mails in entire sheets. The colour of the former is a clear Prussian blue, while the latter varies, one sheet we have examined being a purple, while the other is a deep-slate without the tinge of red in it which makes a purple. The normal colour is evidently one which requires great nicety in manipulation, a slight difference in mixing forming the two shades, which are very distinct.

Like the one penny and sixpence already known, these stamps are on thin woven paper, without watermark, and perforated. The fourpence is perforated by a machine which removes a little circular piece of the paper, like that in use for the English stamps, but with the holes very much wider apart. The sheets of the shilling stamp are also perforated by a machine, and show the following remarkable peculiarity in the perforation; the horizontal lines which sever the stamps from the rows above and beneath them are, as in the fourpence, perforated by a succession of small circular holes cut or punched out; but the vertical lines dividing the stamps from their fellows side by side in the row are perforated (if that term be quite accurate) by an instrument fixed in the machine, which leaves a series of in-

dentations, much closer than the holes before alluded to, and which does not remove a particle of paper except in a very occasional spot, hardly one in a thousand. On severing the stamps by tearing, a rough indented edge is left on each side, a ragged edge, caused by the holes being too far apart, is left above and below. A similar difference has been remarked by us in the former issues, specimens of each of which *completely* perforated by either method may be found, as also occasionally a copy showing *both* systems on the *same* stamp.

SERVIA.—The prince of Servia, Michael Obrenowitz III., following the example of



his cousin of Roumania, has authorised the emission of a series of postage stamps of an elegant device, which includes a portrait of himself. This issue makes its appearance well-designed, well-printed, and perforated. The colours

and values are as follow:—

| | |
|--------|---------|
| 1 para | green. |
| 2 „ | brown. |
| 10 „ | yellow. |
| 20 „ | rose. |
| 40 „ | blue. |

All the values are printed in colour on white paper.

CASHMERE.—In our October number we described a circular stamp, said to belong to this country, and we have now a rectangular one, which, we believe, should be ascribed to



the same source. This stamp is superior in execution to the round one—though, like it, presenting undoubted proof of its eastern origin. The only specimen we have seen is printed in black, in which colour, as may be judged

by our ent, the cabalistic characters lose none of their mysterious appearance. The paper is thin, and of a yellowish tinge, unwatermarked of course, and the post-mark is light-red and circular.

The establishment of a postal system in such an out-of-the-way place as Cashmere, is a surprising evidence of the quickness with which the knowledge of useful inventions spreads in the present day, and of the progressive spirit of the ruler of a half-civilized country. With such an example, may we not hope that the Persian authorities will be impelled to introduce the same system into their country, and with it the handsome stamps which collectors have so long expected. There is at present no direct communication between this country and Cashmere, so that letters must go a long way round, and the same remark applies also to Persia. Neither of these countries is named in our *Postal Guide*. We shall await with interest the arrival of fuller particulars concerning the date of emission, values, and employment of the Cashmere stamps which have come under our notice, and trust our patience will not be too largely drawn upon.

PORTUGAL.—The new series is augmented by the emission of a black 5 reis, of the same type as the 120 reis blue.

PERU.—Three new stamps of the fresh issue have come under our notice during the past month, they are of the respective values of 10 centavos, 25 centavos, and 1 sol,

and are the production of the American Bank-Note Company.



We will describe them in their order, premising that they are printed on plain, unwatermarked paper, and perforated, the shape being an upright rectangle, and the

size similar to that of the recently-emitted 5 centavos. All these stamps are of general

similarity in design, which is unique. In a central circle on an engine-turned groundwork, varying in pattern in each stamp, the value is printed in large shaded figures. The words REPUBLICA PERUANA are placed above and below the edge of the circle, in a plain curved border.



In small frames at the edges of the stamp, above, are the figures 1866, beneath 1867, and right and left, the value in words, in white letters, at length. In each angle is placed a scutcheon bearing the arms of Peru—the familiar device on the older issues, so well known to all collectors. These scutcheons are diagonal-wise on the 1 sol, but upright in the other two.

We have but to add, in conclusion, that the colours are as follows,—

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| 10 centavos | green. |
| 25 " | blue. |
| 1 sol | brown. |

The engraving of the stamps is well-executed, and the design plain and business-like; there is little worthy of positive admiration in the *tout ensemble*, but nothing deserving of reproach.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—We here present our readers with an engraving of the provisional tenpence referred to in last month's magazine. As will be seen, it is the well-known old ninepence reprinted on the old star-watermarked paper, *dentelé à la roulette*, and differing only in the colour, which is an orange-



red of a very positive tone, and in the words TEN PENCE, printed on the face of the stamp in blue ink in the manner represented.

TURKEY, LOCAL POST.—We have received from our correspondent in Constantinople proofs of the blue, green, and pink local stamps, unperforated; as also copies of the ugly *service mixte*, a representation of which will be found in the margin. They are all alike, except in the amount of the *taxe interieure*, which runs 10 paras, 20 paras, 1 piastre, and 2 piastres. The two lower values are printed in black ink on rose and yellow paper, respectively. The 1 piastre is printed

| POSTE LOCALE. | | |
|----------------|--|----|
| Service Mixte. | | |
| Taxe Ext. | | |
| Taxe Int. | | 10 |
| TOTAL. | | |

in red, and the 2 piastres in blue ink on white paper. By means of these stamps, the local post collects the unpaid postage on the Egyptian letters which it delivers, and its own charge for delivery.

ENGLISH LOCALS.—The stamp, of which we append an illustration, explains itself. Its colour is green on white, and its design is,



perhaps, the most tasty of any of the railway labels. Those who collect these hybrids will, therefore, find it a welcome addition. A French journal, in chronicling this stamp from hearsay, makes a ludicrous mistake as to its origin. Understanding that it was issued by the Great Eastern Company, and being unaware that that name applies equally to the big ship and to the *ci-devant* Eastern Counties Railway, the chronicler goes on to inquire—'Is it the *Great Eastern* which, after aiding for a time in the glorious work of laying the transatlantic cable, has been chartered by an English company for the carriage of circulars?' We do not wonder at our neighbours' astonishment at the idea of the *Great Eastern* being employed to convey Brown, Jones, and Robinson's circulars by the ton, across the water, for distribution amongst our esteemed friends on the other side. Such an advertising millennium has not yet arrived.

We give this month an engraving of a stamp fully described in our last impression.



Our 'newly-issued' article necessarily contains notices of all classes of stamps in any degree postal; but we must leave it to our readers' individual judgment to decide whether this and others of the same nature are or are not admissible into their albums.

SWITZERLAND.—We understand that on the 1st January next a 50 c. stamp, probably for English letters, will be issued; and that

the present 40 c., which has been placed *hors de combat* by the postal treaty between Switzerland and France, whereby the single rate of postage on letters between those countries is reduced to 30 c., will be withdrawn. On the same date, envelopes for the Republic, of the values 5 c. and 10c., are expected.

DANUBIAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.—This company has emitted a 10 soldi lilac on white, in addition to the 17 soldi red, already chronicled, and the

DRESDEN EXPRESS CO. completes its set of large rectangular stamps with a yellow $\frac{1}{2}$ nen groschen.

ROUMANIA.—We learn from *Le Timbre-Poste* that the 2 and 20 paras of the new issue are, at present, printed on paper of dull tints; the 2 paras being of a straw colour, and the 20 paras pale rose. This variation is not surprising in the emission of a country such as Roumania. Extreme care is not likely to be taken to print the stamps always on paper of one colour; and it may be that the demand on the part of the philatelic world for specimens has necessitated the hurried working of fresh sheets. We may add that the first printed 5 and 20 paras of the present issue are on much stouter paper than the 2 paras.

THE COLOURS OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

BY THE EDITOR.

A collection of postage stamps ministers largely to the gratification of the eye. Even the uninitiated can comprehend, in some degree, the pleasure a well-filled album affords to its possessor, as they glance over its pages, each bright with its many-coloured complement of stamps; and, probably, the first collectors—the pioneers of philately—commenced gathering their timbro-postal stores under the influence of the admiration excited in them by the beautiful appearance of the labels which came under their notice. The researches into the history of stamps which have since been made, are sufficient to prove that we do not collect them merely for the sake of possessing a lot of coloured bits of paper, but that we recognize them as at once the results and the symbols of one of the most beneficial inventions of the age.

Yet, as the hues in which they are printed conduce so largely to their beauty (or in some cases to their ugliness), we think some remarks on stamp colours will not prove unacceptable to our readers.

Almost every known shade of colour finds its representative among postage stamps, and only an approximation to correctness can be attained in any verbal description of them. Half-an-hour's examination will show how inadequate the ordinary names of colours frequently are to convey an idea of the precise tint. Indeed, such terms as red, green, blue, &c., are in their nature generic, and comprise within their limits whole orders of shades. Take, for instance, red; this includes scarlet, crimson, vermilion, cerise, brick-red, solferino, carmine, and light-red; the term green, again, covers olive, grass, pea, emerald, and others. But in fact, even when compounds are used to describe stamps, it will often happen that two or more, said to be of the same shade, are, when placed side by side, found to be by no means alike.

That list-makers should in such cases differ from each other in their judgment as to colours, is not surprising, and the discord in some instances is well calculated to amuse. The most frequent stumbling-blocks are the hues between magenta and lilac. These delicate colours, together with mauve, purple, and violet, are found in all shades. A very little alteration in the ink will change a lilac into a mauve, or a purple into a violet. Rose, pink, and carmine are in like manner occasionally mistaken for each other. Thus, the 80 lepta Greek is *carmine* in the eyes of Messrs. Moens and Mahé, *rose* in the opinion of Mount Brown and Maury, and *crimson* according to Dr. Gray. The 9 crazie of Tuscany presents a still more pronounced contrast. Among English authors, Gray and Mount Brown term both the earlier and the later issue, claret; Bellars & Davie declare them to be respectively, brown-purple and dull-lilac; Moens calls both issue brown, and Maury claret; Mahé distinguishes a violet-blue and *violacé*, and Levraut a brown and brown-violet. The French authors do not agree as to the colours of their own stamps, for one considers the 10 c. Presidency to be bistre, and

the other christens it yellow. Similarly the 2 lepta Greek is called yellow by Levrault, bistre by Maury and Mahé, tawny and drab by Moens, and cinnamon by Mount Brown.

Many stamps have been printed in two or more shades of colour, thus greatly increasing the total number of varieties. About a year and a half since we published some carefully-compiled timbro-postal statistics, in which it was stated that, allowing but one colour to each stamp, only 1391 kinds, exclusive of locals, had, up to that time, been emitted. If we add 200 to this number, to represent subsequent additions, we get a total of (say) 1600, but a recently-published French catalogue and its appendix contains descriptions of more than 2800 varieties, and amongst them are very few local labels. The distinction made between perforated and unperforated stamps, no doubt contributes largely to this increase, but the recognition of shades of colour of one stamp is an equally important cause.

These variations in tint are, in many instances, accidental. A government, when authorising the emission of a series of stamps, names the colours, but not the shades of colours, leaving it to the administration, as a foreign writer observes, to carry into effect the intention of the law. But the postal administration itself cannot ensure the printing of the stamps in *perfect* conformity with its directions, and thus it happens that the mixer of the ink ultimately determines the colour. A little negligence on his part, in the preparation of the mixture, may result in the production of an undesired shade, and, with the greatest care, it must be very difficult to compound the ink, from time to time, of the same ingredients, in the same proportions.

The celebrated engravers of the Nicaraguan and other valuable stamps, appear to have been most successful in obtaining complete uniformity of colour. We have never observed two varieties of either of the Nicaraguan stamps, or of any of the Costa Rica series, though they have been in existence now for some years. The French and Russian stamps are likewise conspicuous for being printed always of the same shade. Our own, on the other hand, are subject to considerable variation. The penny is

known in several shades, and it is not surprising that difficulty should have been found in attaining exactly the same rosy-red hue. The other values (except perhaps the twopenny) are met with in more than one shade. Many of our colonial stamps, printed in this country, also vary not a little in colour.

Perforation is frequently accompanied by a change of shade. As a rule, we believe stamps originally issued unperforated are not afterwards subject to the operation of the machine, perhaps because they are printed so close together that the punctures would encroach upon the design. The dies composing the sheets, therefore, require to be re-arranged, so as to leave greater space between the rows of stamps. The authorities defer the preparation and issue of the new and improved edition, until the unperforated stock is running low, and thus it occurs that the different values of a series are re-issued, perforated, at different times.

The Queensland stamps offer a prominent instance of change of colour, co-incidentally with perforation, the entire series having been altered. The stamps of the French empire and the fourth Sardinian issue are also conspicuous examples of this fact.

'First impressions' of stamps, as of many things beside, are most pleasing. The design shows out clearly, and the colours are generally vivid and decided. The same pains are not taken, it would seem, with subsequent workings, nor the same skill employed in compounding the ink. We have before us specimens of Liberian stamps, printed some four or five years ago, far superior in richness of colouring to those now issued. But the Greek stamps give the most noticeable instance of deterioration. The early Paris-printed series is as different from the current issue as it is possible for stamps of the same design to be. The rich hues of the first impressions are superseded by ineffective tints. The deep, full brown of the old 1 lepton, and the clear cinnamon of the next value have given place to almost the same dull shade; and the delicate 40 lepta violet has merged in the coarse *lie de vin* of the present day. The change in the colour of this stamp has been gradual. At each successive working the

shade receded farther and farther from the original, until the present tint was reached.

It occasionally happens that a sheet or more of a stamp is printed in the wrong colour, and stamps so impressed are generally of considerable rarity. Of these, the wood-block Capes are, perhaps, the most valuable. The fourpenny *rose*, Western Australian, of which only one sheet is said to have been printed; the *lilac* Liberian sixpenny; and the 2 reales *blue*, of the 1855 Spanish series, are also very rare.

When the colour of a stamp is officially changed it is generally because it clashes with that of some other value, or is not the same as that of a similar value in the emission of another country, between which and the country to which the changed stamp belongs a postal union exists. Thus, the 9 kr. Baden *rose* (arms), issued in 1860, was withdrawn in 1862, to make room for the brown of the same value, which thus agreed in colour with the Prussian 3 s. gr.—its monetary equivalent—and with stamps of the same value of other States in the German *Postverein*. The alteration of the old Italian 2 c. journal stamp from black to yellow, and of the fourpenny New Zealand from *rose* to yellow was caused by the inconvenience resulting from a close resemblance between two values.

The colours of the home stamps have in many instances influenced our colonial authorities in their choice of tints. We find many red penny stamps, blue twopenny, and red fourpenny, but no attempt has been made to secure a uniformity of colour between the stamps of the colonies and those of Great Britain. From a philatelic point of view we are not anxious for the period to arrive when such a uniformity will be *un fait accompli*. Variety is more pleasing to the eye, and, under the present system, many colours are employed for the impression of colonial stamps, which do not find favour with the officials of St. Martin's-le-Grand: yellow, mauve, marone, orange, purple, lake, and others, for example. The issues of Nevis and Jamaica correspond perhaps most nearly in hue to our own; the current Victorian series, on the other hand, does not agree with ours in a single colour.

The fashion—if fashion there be—in respect to the selection of colours for stamps seems to be to give the preference, on this side of the water at least, to delicate tints. Mauve, lilac, and violet are frequently made use of. Prussia has her 3 pf. violet; the present issues of Schleswig and Holstein each possess values in mauve: the same colour is also represented in the recently-issued St. Lucia; lilac is the colour of the 3 s. Danish; violet of the 1865 Spanish 2 reales, and so on. The emissions by De la Rue are all printed in soft shades, as are the recent issue for the Cape of Good Hope, and some of the new stamps for Brazil. Black stamps were formerly in great favour. Our own first penny stamp, the French Republic 20 c., Spanish 6 c. of 1850 and '51, the Austrian 2 kr., and Venetian 10 c., the first Sardinia 5 c., and Western Australia penny, the old Brazilian series, the 10 c. United States of 1847, the two Zurich stamps, those of the German and French Cantons, the Bavarian 1 kr. of 1849, the Luxembourg 10 c., the 1 quattr. of Tuscany, and other early emissions, evidence this. The number of current black stamps is very few. We can only call to mind the $\frac{1}{4}$ s. gr. envelope and adhesive of North Germany, the penny St. Lucia, the 15 c. United States, 1 c. British Guiana, the new 200 reis Brazil, the returned letter stamps, the Nicaraguan 5 c., and the 24 c. of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia.

The disposition to collect varieties of tint is rather on the increase than otherwise, but care is necessary in the selection, or the philatelist will soon find his album overcrowded with stamps differing but slightly from each other. He runs less risk of being defrauded by chemically-changed specimens than formerly. Those who attempted to profit by the supposed credulity of collectors must have found 'the game not worth the candle,' and, therefore, have abandoned the field. Yet, now and then we come across a specimen of their mischievous ingenuity. The latest which have reached us are a pink $1\frac{1}{2}$ schg. Lubcek; and a dull lilac 1 s. gr. Prussian (eagle)—both of which had been operated on—an acid having been employed for the one, and an alkali for the other. It

is perhaps best in all cases to consider the unusual colour of a stamp as *prima facie* evidence of its being an impostor. By means of a catalogue or a trustworthy dealer its character can soon be tested, and if found to be a true *rara avis* it can be 'mounted' in a place of honour accordingly.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

A Descriptive Price Catalogue of British, Colonial, and Foreign Postage Stamps. Seventh Edition. London: E. Marlborough & Co.; Bath: Alfred Smith & Co.

THE rapid sale of the edition which we had the pleasure to notice in July has necessitated the publication of another, and has given the compilers the opportunity to add all the subsequent emanations, correct the price list, and ornament the cover with a very attractive device.

The Boy's Telegram. London: Froud & Musgrave.

WE fear the *Telegram* of Sept. 15, a copy of which is now on our table, was not replied to by its readers in such a manner as to ensure its repetition. Following the rule to speak nothing but good of the dead, we may conscientiously state that the paper on which it was printed is of good quality, that the type is clear, and that the initial letter which commences the first article, is not devoid of beauty. Telegrams, we all know, are liable to get strangely metamorphosed in transmission, and that which was intended for boys has, apparently, not escaped the usual fate. That the editorial message 'On Stamps' was altered by the printer we cannot doubt, else the mention of a 2½ schg. Hamburg dark-yellow, and of an entire set of New Belgian stamps 'of a light neutral colour' cannot be explained. The discontinuance of the *Telegram* is to be regretted. That it was started with high aims is evident from the following reply to a correspondent, 'We understand that Mr. S. O. Beeton has given up the publishing, consequently the magazines you refer to are defunct. We hope shortly to enlarge ours, and take their place.'

Nouveau Guide Manuel du Collectionneur de Timbres-poste. Paris: Pierre Mahé.

Catalogue descriptif de tous les Timbres-poste créés, de 1840 à 1866. Paris: Maury.

THESE catalogues are the most recent Parisian publications of a philatelic nature. They are compiled by respectable dealers of long-standing, and profess to give a complete list of all known stamps, together with their market prices. Externally they are well got up, and M. Maury's book is very copiously illustrated. Both of them are about half the size of the English price catalogues, and capable of being pocketed. The system of numbering in the *Guide Manuel* is the same as that followed in Alfred Smith & Co.'s price list, but in the *Catalogue Descriptif* the stamps of each country are separately numbered. In one book, all mention of essays is avoided, in the other, illustrations of all the principal ones are given, but vendors are not tempted to purchase by a list of prices. Some of these, such as the French presidency and Sicilian, are very curious, and quite new to us, and the engravings, regarded as mere embellishments, are not out of place. Both lists are carefully compiled, the date of emission and other necessary particulars being given respecting the stamps; their shapes, however, are not referred to, and this, we think, rather a defect. The distinctions between dentelated and undentelated are duly maintained, and these contribute to swell the number. In making such distinctions, the authors of these works doubtless only follow the bent of French philatelists, and the time may come when English collectors also will generally recognize the propriety of collecting both kinds.

Postage-Stamp Album and Catalogue of British and Foreign Postage Stamps; revised, corrected, and brought up to the present time, by DR. VIXER; forming the ninth edition of Oppen. London: William Stevens.

It is scarcely nine months since we had the pleasure of reviewing the eighth edition of this useful publication, being the first under the present editorship. Its rapid sale, and consequent exhaustion, has necessitated

a republication; and through the liberality of the publisher, who allowed him to make sundry alterations and additions regardless of cost, the editor has been enabled still further to improve upon his previous labours, for the benefit of the philatelic purchasers of the work.

In the last edition no fewer than forty pages were added to the album portion of the book, for the insertion of the stamps of countries that had not previously emitted any, or for those which had been insufficiently provided with space. During the course of the current year, Egypt, British Honduras, &c., having enlisted in the ranks of postage-stamp issuers, and Newfoundland, the Brazils, &c., affording us entire sets of novelties, still more room was required; sixteen pages have been consequently added to the album department, although the moderate price of the work has not been increased.

Greatly as the preceding edition was improved, there was much left to be done, which, if of comparatively minor importance, tends considerably to the completeness and utility of the work. Bergeudorf, which had been hitherto inconveniently amalgamated with Hamburg, has received a separate heading for itself, and the Danish colonials have been assigned a proper compartment among the West Indian stamps. In the earlier editions of this, and we believe, of all other postage-stamp albums, the four issues of Sardinia, although the first three had never done duty for Italy at all, were always noted as appertaining to that country; in the volume before us, they receive due rank in a page of their own.

We observe, moreover, that considerable additions have been made in the heraldic information; the recent political changes, so far as they bear on postal arrangements, are chronicled; and the names of most of the South American and other presidents are, for the first time, inserted.

Altogether, we commend this publication, the only one combining, if required, both album and catalogue, to the patronage of the philatelic community; with every wish for the rapid sale and exhaustion of the edition now under notice.

POSTAL CHIT-CHAT.

AMERICAN DEAD LETTERS.—Over 4,000,000 dead letters were received at the dead-letter office last year, 42,154 of which contained money, amounting to 244,373 dollars, which was returned to the owners.

THE UNITED STATES POSTAGE CURRENCY.—The treasury department having received thousands of applications from persons who desired to have copies of each of the fractional currency issues, has decided to print several thousand of each, with the faces and backs of the notes on different sheets of paper, and to be sold at half-price. The notes will not be redeemed, and the government will make 30,000 dollars clear.

A WELL-EXECUTED FORGERY of the rare one-cent Confederate States stamp is now being offered to collectors. It may be readily detected on comparison with the smaller 5 c. blue (head of Davis), the upper marginal inscription and framework being precisely the same in genuine specimens of each value. Without comparison, a forged 1 c. can be discovered by the crowding of the letters in 'Confederate' by which the letter 'd' is compressed, or, as printers would say, 'condensed.'

A LUCRATIVE POST.—A short time since the head-porter of Trinity College, Cambridge, died, and it has since turned out that he had amassed between £15,000 and £20,000 during the period in which he had held the office. According to the regulations in force, he was entitled to make a charge of a halfpenny for every letter which was delivered through the post-office to him for the undergraduates, and he was entitled to receive three-halfpence for every penny stamp sold to them. The receipts from this source must have amounted to no inconsiderable sum in a society which musters some 600 resident students.

THE REUNION STAMPS.—The creation of these stamps was authorised by a decree of the governor of the island, M. Doré, dated the 10th of December, 1851. The stamps were composed of typographical designs, and each sheet contained six impressions. Only one supply was ever printed, and that consisted of 7560 stamps of each value. Their circulation commenced on the 1st of January, 1852, and ceased on the 1st of January, 1860. No special postmark for their obliteration ever existed, and the few known specimens are cancelled by a stroke of the pen.—*Le Timbre-Poste*.

SOUTHERN POSTMASTERS.—The postmaster-general has directed the immediate prosecution of parties in the South who held the office of postmaster at the outbreak of the rebellion. The suits will be brought for the recovery of the value of postage stamps and moneys belonging to the United States, held by them at the time of the suspension of the mails in the South. The indebtedness of delinquent postmasters, on old accounts, amounted to 300,000 dollars, of which one-third has been paid. The postmasters think they should be credited with the stamps which they turned over to the Confederate government.

WANTED, A NINEPENNY ENGLISH.—An Irish correspondent of ours informs us, that being desirous of obtaining a specimen of the ninepenny stamp with large letters, he inquired for it at several post-offices, including the General Post Office, Dublin, and was told that there was no such thing, and that the stamp (with small letters), was being sold merely until the stock was exhausted, and that it was probable there would be one of the value of 10d. issued soon. The last portion of the information given is most likely correct, as a tenpenny stamp is urgently required for the prepayment of the single rate of postage, *via* Marseilles.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MORE NEWSPAPER STAMPS.

To the Editor of 'THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—I give you herewith, a list of a few more newspaper stamps, not described in your last article, or by Mr. Charles Harland, in his letter at page 175.

England, 1791. Like A. page 157. HALFFENNY three times below.

" 1773. Same device, without the scroll, with HALFFENNY above, but that inscription twice below.

" 1865. Like C. page 157. But with the words PERIODICAL PUBLICATION, in lieu of newspaper, on right side.

Brusselck. Horse prancing in centre, surrounded by the inscription ZU BRAUNSCHWEIG. H. B. L. POLIZEI DIRECTION. Black impression.

Holland. Same design as described last month, but with inscription ZUID HOLLAND. 1 c. blue.

France. Same as at page 157. 3 c. black impression. Also, stamped on same paper a stamp same size, with the words A TIMBRE A L'EXTRAORDINAIRE in a circle of single lines. DRÔME in centre. Both these stamps are also impressed in blue.

" Man with spear in right hand standing to the left, his right arm on an altar, on which is inscribed the value, SEINE below, TIMBRE ROYAL above. 5 c. red.

The two first-named English were from the *London Gazette*.

Great Eastern Railway. There is also a 2d. brick-red, value in green, for four newspapers.

Yours truly,
DUDLEY.

London.

CALIFORNIAN ENVELOPES.

To the Editor of 'THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—I received a lot of envelopes a few days ago from San Francisco, and among them one which is neither mentioned by Mount Brown or Dr. Gray, bearing a shield-like device, with inscription, PAID, SWIFT & CO., EXPRESS, on old U. S. ten-cent envelopes, white and buff. Also, two varieties of Wells, Fargo, & Co.'s envelopes—light-brown and buff paper, with their frank on the left of the envelope, with inscription (PAID $\frac{2\frac{1}{2}}$ CENTS FOR THE INTERIOR OF LOWER CALIFORNIA ONLY) without any government stamp.

I would here state that Messrs. Wells, Fargo, & Co., print their frank upon private postage envelopes of firms, for which they do a large amount of expressing, &c., &c., particularly those of Mr. S. R. Rosenthal, wholesale and retail dealer in tobacco, of Marysville, Cal.

Respectfully yours,
JAMES M. CHUTE.

Boston, Mass.

DER BRIEFMARKEN SAMMLER AND THE AUSTRIAN MERCURIES.

To the Editor of 'THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

SIR,—Mr. Pemberton takes upon himself to attack the veracity of the *Briefmarken Sammler*. I know nothing of the source whence the writer obtained his information, except that he states that it is official, neither can I compete with Mr. Pemberton's experience in rarities, but I can compete with him a little in arguing the point. Now it appears to me neither 'curious' nor 'simply foolish' that the Austrian government, discovering possibly that it was being systematically defrauded by the chemical changing of the blue Mercury into yellow, should decree its immediate abolition, before the remainder was exhausted; nor does it seem more 'foolish,' that, finding little or no demand for the 50 newspapers pale-rose stamp, both it and the yellow should have been used up for single newspapers. The remainders could not have lasted more than a few weeks—or, at most, a few months—and probably became extinct before the close of 1856, so that when it is remembered that stamp-collecting was, at that time, almost unknown, no wonder so few have escaped destruction. Nor does it appear more 'curious' or

'foolish' that the Austrian government, finding a ten newspaper stamp still desirable, should, to prevent fraud in future, decree a different die and a different colour for the new emission. Every tyro knows that both the pale-rose and deep *ponceau* are extensively forged, and are as common as blackberries. I bought one myself last week for a penny. One may as well say that there is no pale-rose genuine, because of the quantity in the market, as say that the deep-red must be forged, for that reason only. I saw the deep-red in a German collection beyond suspicion some years since. If not a stamp, it must have been an essay. With regard to the blue being so much oftener obliterated than the others, any one who knows the natural indolence of human nature can easily account for it. Single newspapers of uniform size can be placed all of a row and obliterated rapidly, but unwieldy packets of 10 or 20 newspapers require to be dealt with separately, and were possibly, therefore, from laziness, thrown into the bag untouched. I do not pretend to decide whose opinion is correct—all I aim at is to show that the 'official' account is quite possible and more than probable.

Yours truly,
FENTONIA.

Clifton.

THE FRENCH SCHOOL OF PHILATELY.

To the Editor of 'THE STAMP-COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE.'

DEAR SIR,—It has become fashionable amongst English collectors to run down the French school of philately, overlooking how much we are indebted to them for our present extended knowledge on many subjects, and that to their persevering industry is due the discovery of many curious and valuable facts. The chief argument used by the English school is, that the French school 'invent' trivial varieties, that they not only distinguish between perforated and unperforated stamps, but go to the length of distinguishing between the perforations by roulette and machine, and, climax of absurdity, counting even the number of the perforations. As to 'inventing trivial varieties,' I shall claim your space to reply to this further on, and as to the charge of absurdity, I have a few words to say.

I uphold the French school of philately, and therefore many of your readers will think my arguments are prejudiced. Now, as to the 'absurdity' of distinguishing between different papers and different varieties of perforations. If a stamp is printed on watermarked paper, or upon unwatermarked paper, wove or laid, there is some reason for it, and why is it absurd or frivolous (another pet aggressive adjective of the English school) to notice their existence? The great stumbling-block is distinction in perforations; and I saw advanced in a correspondent's letter, the fact of the Russian stamps being chronicled by M. Moens in two varieties of perforation, as an instance of the foolishness of the French school: that a simple difference in the number of the perforations as there given, is carrying variations pretty far. I do admit, but though brought forward in ridicule, these very stamps refute the writer's argument of absurdity, perhaps, better than any others could do; for this reason, that the change in perforation is followed by another of the paper and colouring matter of the stamps themselves, which, but for the minuteness of the French school's investigations, might not have been remarked. The first perforated set of Russian has 10 by 14 dents, and during the past month a fresh series has been emitted, 12 by 17; this trivial variety of perforation is followed by slight changes in the colours, which are in the fresh set, aniline, and presenting a more glazed surface than the old set with the larger perforations. Surely this proves the fresh series entirely

distinct from the other. Again, I will mention Belgium as a country whose stamps of the 1850 type may be arranged by variety of perforation and watermark into four distinct, and well-authenticated series, viz. :—

1. Unperforated, on cartridge paper, watermarked with interlaced letters L. 10, 20, 40 c.
2. Unperforated, on ordinary unwatermarked paper. 1, 10, 20, 40 c.
3. Perforated, 11 by 14. 1, 10, 20, 40 c.
4. Perforated, 13 by 15. 1, 10, 20, 40 c.

Now, were the differences between 3 and 4 comprised in the difference in the denticulation, although a collector of the French school, I would not consider it essential to my happiness to possess both, but they are two clear issues in every respect; the colour alone of the 1 c. No. 4, is so essentially different from the 1 c. of No. 3, that *any* collector would take it, but when we find difference of colour (so often merely accidental), supplemented and corroborated as a distinct issue by a uniform difference in the perforation, running through a whole series, I ask upon whose side the absurdity lies, with the French school for studying and discovering this, or with the English school for running down those who make such discoveries?

As to the charge of 'inventing' varieties, I maintain that if a stamp exists differing from any known type, however trivially, if such trivial variation is chronicled by they of the French school, it is not 'invented' by them, but simply chronicled; if collectors of the French school like to collect them, let them do it. For collectors of the English school, there is the catalogue of Dr. Gray, which they may use as their *vade mecum*, and no collector of that school need fear being confused or disheartened by any mention of the varieties of the French classifiers. The whole controversy hinges on this, why should collections of—say insects, coins, or anything, be arranged scientifically and according to most minute varieties, and one of stamps be arranged by facial similitude, without reference to anything else? Why do the English school even admit perforated and unperforated as distinct, when perforation is often not the type of a fresh issue, but the work of a private vendor, this being the case with many French, and, I have reason to believe, with the Tasmanian stamps in present use?

Variation in paper is, but a secondary step after perforation; perforated and unperforated is a facial difference, and therefore suits our English school, whereas differences in paper and watermarks are more abstruse, require study and minute examination, and when found are often very slight differences. To sum up, the old English system, according to Mount Brown's catalogue, *i. e.*, placing indiscriminately together all issues that were from one die, without any regard for paper, watermark, or perforation, is a system of collecting (?) very suitable for school boys. A collection of any given thing is worthless, unless properly classified; and as it is impossible to classify stamps without due regard to perforation, paper, and watermarks, the French school are decidedly in advance of the English school, in having found out and acknowledged this long since. If we pretend to collect stamps, and to *study* them, we are bound to admit varieties of all kinds, and not to overlook that slight variations are often indices of more important ones, and, since they exist, are worth the trouble of gathering together. The French school have no standard catalogue, their collections are their catalogues; and here lies the difference, English collections are all made after one model, the English school can fill an album which has every space ruled, and the name of the stamp legibly printed in its right space; but the French school can take a blank book, and, by their own study and

labour, fill it with stamps arranged in consistent sets, and can tell you every form in which you meet each stamp. The French classify, the English school simply collect.

The English school has lately been supporting the collection of frank stamps, newspaper stamps, and farthing circular stamps—a most useless and troublesome addition to postage stamps; and yet this very school runs down collecting as practised by the French school, because the latter classify stamps by their minute differences, and yet they themselves multiply the number of stamps by running after that which has little to do with postage stamps. If the English school like to collect these things, the French school will not interfere with them; then why these diatribes against the French school? I cannot help thinking of the hackneyed quotation of those who

'Compound for sins they are inclined to,
By damning those they have no mind to.'

Yours very truly,

EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

(While agreeing in many of the views expressed by our facile correspondent, we protest against the use he makes of the terms *English* as opposed to *French* school. The collectors of this country are as careful, as exact, and as minute as those in France; and to attribute to the latter country the exclusive pursuit of the science in its infancy, is committing an injustice against our own countrymen.—Ed.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SELIAM.—The stamp you describe is an Italian passport stamp.

P. W. B.—Many thanks for your letter of the 3rd ult.

E. S. GREEN.—We are obliged by your forwarding a specimen of the new 3d. Victoria, which you will find duly noticed in our article on new stamps.

H. WITTECK, London, informs us that on examining his Victorian stamps of the present two shilling type for the minute words mentioned in the last number of *The Stamp Collector's Magazine* as discernible on them, he observed that they all had the letters v. r. at the bottom of the small scrolls, inside the stamp. The v he states is a little below and to the right of r in postage, and the r on the opposite side in the same position to the left of v in stamp. He has also discovered an A, or a v inverted, and an R on the two-shilling stamps, the A being on a small scroll directly above the r in two and the r in another scroll above the last s in shilling. The same letters are to be found, according to our correspondent, in the *Registered* stamp, above the left bar of the r in that word. We rather think the supposed letters are caused by curves in the pattern, and that the partial resemblance to the letters named is accidental.—H. W. will find the Mexican stamp he refers to noted in our current article on new stamps.—The Oldenburg 1861, 3 s. gr. green, is erroneously catalogued by Dr. Gray, as having the arms on a dark disk; the reverse is the fact.

H. H. B., Jersey.—We should have thought you could have divined for yourself that stamps of the same design as the current French ones with 'specimen' printed across must be no other than specimens or samples of French stamps.

W. J. S.—We cannot give a list such as you require of continental stamp publications; you will find reviews of all which have appeared in the pages of our magazine.

G. P.—The orange one franc French Republic is of a very dark shade, correctly termed by a French author, red-orange. All genuine specimens are printed on white paper, but counterfeits are sold impressed on deep-yellow.

CONGOES.—The first series of Brazilian stamps, authorised by a decree dated the 29th November, 1842, was issued in the month of February, 1843, and remained in circulation until June, 1844.







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